LAVENDER Volume 20, Issue 503

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FALL ARTS & DINING ISSUE

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September 4-17, 2014

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SEPTEMBER 4-17, 2014

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CHEF MIKE RAKUN ON

FINDING STYLE IN YOUR FOOD

HOW HAS FOOD STYLE CHANGED SINCE YOU'VE BEEN A CHEF?

I think we've all seen a bombardment of food photos shared globally through social media, so it's definitely put a lot more attention on how food looks on a plate. For me, the most important thing has always been to make the food as appealing to the eye as the palette.

WHAT DOES FOOD STYLE MEAN TO YOU?

My style has always been more rustic refined, and not to over style the food for presentation purposes. I like to let the natural ingredients be the hero in both the presentation and taste.

At Marin, I really focus on combining items that best highlight the characteristics of each ingredient and alter them as little as possible to let the natural flavors shine through. True food style to me is tasting the respective components of each dish without the addition of unnecessary and sometimes unhealthy elements to cover the real flavor.

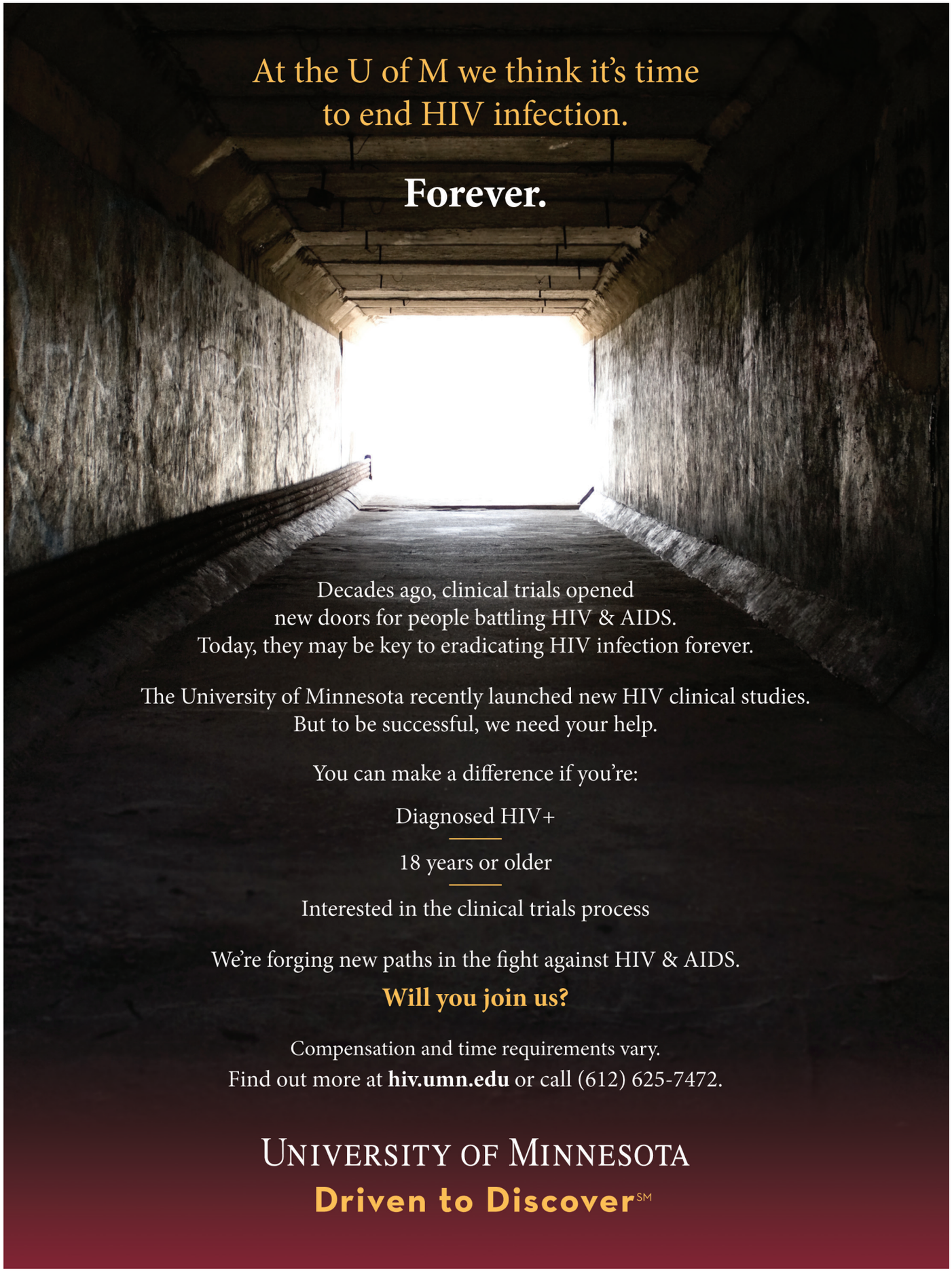
IN THE KITCHEN, WHAT CAN'T YOU LIVE WITHOUT?

Like every chef, I love my knives. I'm a *MAC* knife guy and I do almost everything with a sharp chef's knife. If you sit at our chef's table at Marin and watch the action while eating, you'll also see that I swear by my trusty stable of multiple stainless steel pans.

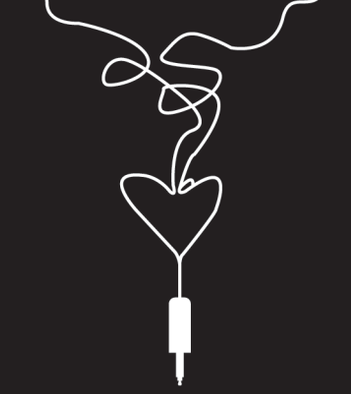
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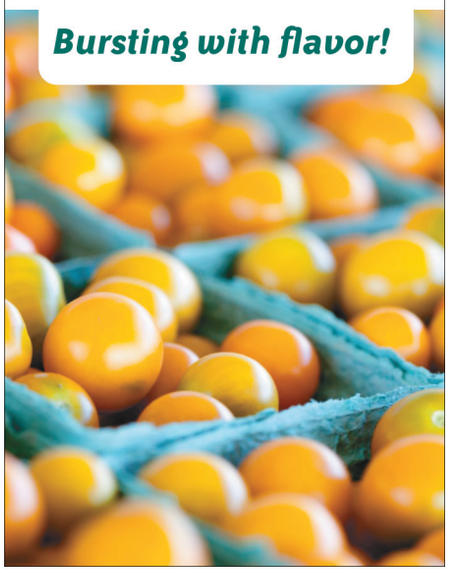
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ON THE COVER
Get carried away with Lavender's Fall Arts & Dining Issue... just like the cast of *Nice Work If You Can Get It* which will be at the Ordway Center for Performing Arts in October. Photo by Jeremy Daniel

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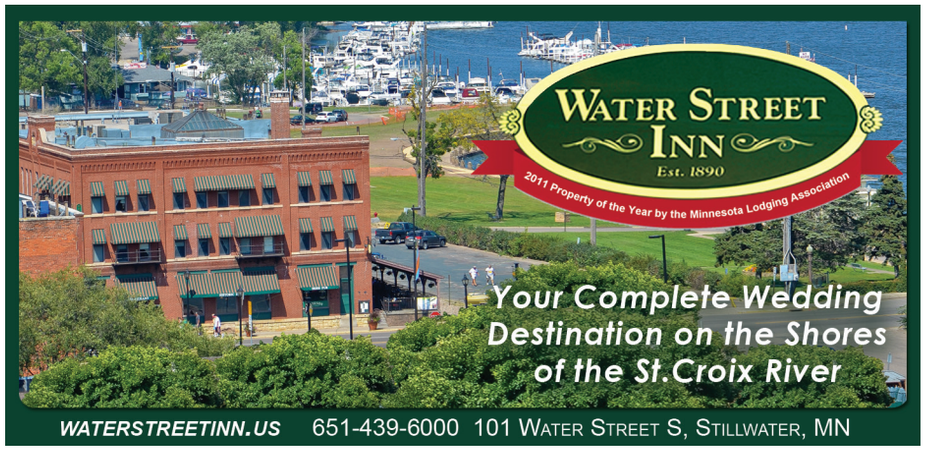

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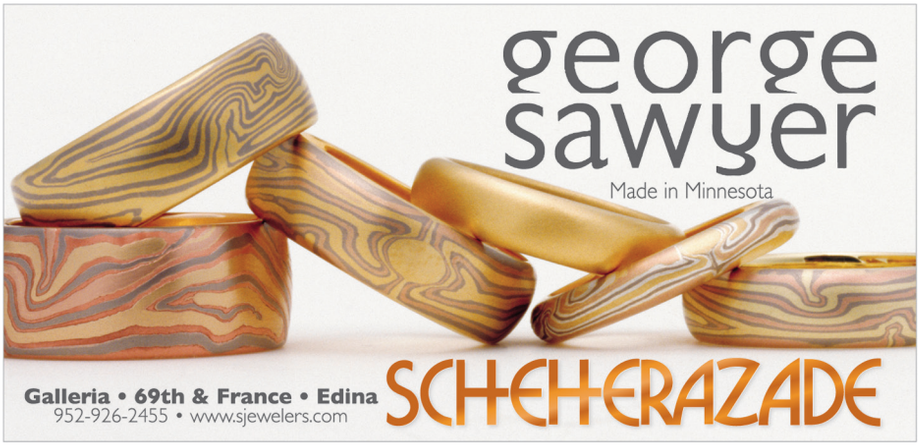
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FROM THE EDITOR | BY ANDY LIEN

Culinary Arts

Dinner and a show. I grew up with the romantic notions of what life must be like as an adult, getting to go to dinner and a show. Raised in the country about an hour from The Cities, I envisioned magical places like the Orpheum, the Guthrie, and the Ordway being set in the clouds somewhere. Getting to go to the Chanhassen Dinner Theaters was the cat's meow, something I didn't get to do until I was in my thirties. Today, in my late thirties, I still dress up for a night at the theater, I still get excited by the lights and the curtains, and I always look forward to dinner and a show.

I was 16 years old when I saw my first stage production in The Cities. I'd saved up my money and made the plans with my friends, Rachel and Sherry, to see *The Phantom of the Opera* at the Ordway in St. Paul. We ordered our tickets and got them in the mail. An ad for Forepaugh's was included with the tickets; it said that we could ride a free shuttle to the Ordway if we dined there before a show...we made reservations with relief that we didn't have to figure out how to get there ourselves. Somehow, Sherry drove us in her parents' Taurus to St. Paul in rush hour, got us to Forepaugh's in Irvine Park, and the night was ours. I remember that I ordered veal medallions in a cream sauce that I spilled on my blouse and tried to cover (probably unsuccessfully) with my mom's necklace that I'd borrowed. We felt so fancy to be shuttled to the Ordway and everything was so bright and exciting. I sat in the center of the third row and was aghast with delight as the famed chandelier soared above my head, accompanied by the hammering organ chords. It was a night I'll always remember.

Still in high school, I had a few other memorable opportunities to see big stage productions. When we were juniors, my friend Anna and I got tickets to see *Miss Saigon* at the Orpheum (on OPENING NIGHT!) and dined at the Nankin before making our way through protesters to the red carpet (RED CARPET!) and through the gold doors to the opulent lobby. Years later, I laugh about the Nankin but still take very seriously any protesters who dislike the portrayal of particular cultures in what we call our Western Canon. As a senior, I somehow won tickets to the Guthrie and my friend Sharayla and I went to *Dream on Monkey Mountain* at which I not only saw my first play (I was a musicals buff), but my first dancing naked man (again with the buff). Talk about the arts opening us up to new experiences; we were pretty shocked and had to try hard to maintain our decorum and not giggle ourselves out of the theater.

Now, at more than twice the age I was then, I see more than my fair share of shows. I pinch myself, because going to the theater is part of my job, even. My experiences have grown to include smaller venues and more obscure productions that have only broadened my horizons. I've figured out my beaten paths so that I always know where my Jeep is parked, no matter which theater I emerge from in the dark of night, in a standing-ovation stupor. I've even figured out that sometimes it's easier to do a show *then* dinner. What? A late supper? Only fancy people do that! But when work runs late and there's bound to be a line of cars to get out of the parking ramp after the show, why not spend that time noshing at a nearby establishment?

Looking at this issue, our Food & Dining Pairings have me dancing with anticipation. Some people look forward to brackets and fantasy football, I look forward to plotting shows and meals. And, since I live on the Green Line in St. Paul, this new light rail method of transportation puts a fantastic number of venues within walking distance of mass transit—it's a game-changer. I'll choose Zen Box Izakaya or Sanctuary to pair up with shows at the Guthrie via the Green Line's Downtown East stop; Meritage or Pazzaluna or Saint Paul Grill for shows at the Ordway or Park Square Theater via the Green Line's Central stop; Black Sheep Pizza or Sawatdee for shows at The Fitz or the History Theater via the Green Line's 10th Street Station, or pretty much any downtown show and restaurant via the Green Line's Warehouse District or Nicollet Mall stops. The opportunities are rich and plentiful...and easy.

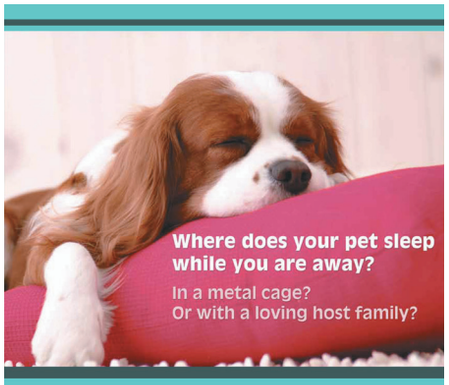
We have such talent in the Twin Cities. I'm not only speaking of the theaters and actors and directors and writers and singers and artists, but also of our culinary stars. I'm a person who values experiences more than gifts and, in terms of what we have here in our midst, our arts scene is a gift. Take advantage of it as best you can.

Best of luck to the stars of stage and kitchen as we start this Fall Season of theater. Thank you for enriching our lives as you do.



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A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

Leviticus and the Refugee Question

June, 1939. Offshore Florida, within view of the glowing lights of Miami, the 937 passengers of the Hamburg-America Line's MS *St. Louis* waited and hoped. Refused entry to Cuba, their future now depended on the United States. But the passengers, German Jewish refugees, were refused sanctuary here as well; the ship was turned back toward Europe.

Today America has another chance to give sanctuary; to the thousands of children fleeing horrendous circumstances in their Central America homelands. While many in the GOP clamor for immediate deportation, conservative Fox News contributor George Will unexpectedly announced, "We ought to say to these children, 'Welcome to America, you're going to go to school, and get a job, and become American'…We have 3,141 counties in this country, that would be 20 per county…The idea that we can't assimilate these eight-year-old criminals with their teddy bears is preposterous."

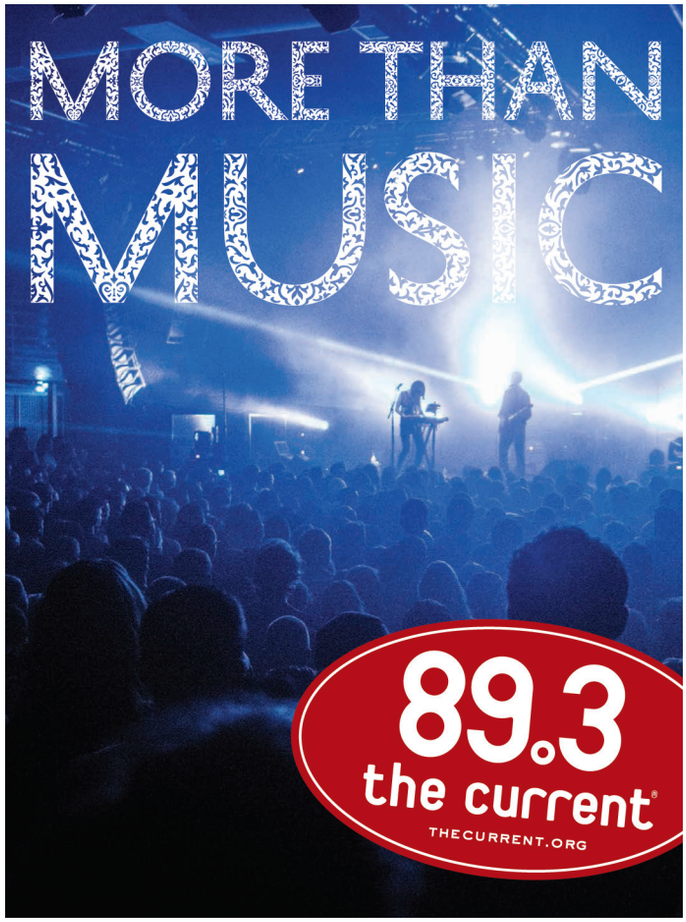
Current photos of grown women, teeth bared, hurling invective taunts at youngsters mirrors images of housewives during the Little Rock, Arkansas, school desegregation proceedings in 1957 and again in 1960 Louisiana, at six-year-old Ruby Nell Bridges, the only African-American child enrolled in the William Franz School. Flanked by federal marshals, Ruby encountered one woman threatening to poison her, and another brandishing a black doll in a wooden coffin.

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick recently suggested one possible solution: that two of his state's military facilities serve as host sites for at least some of the many undocumented Central Americans. He recalled that our country has a history of helping children in need, saying, "We have rescued Irish children from famine, Russian and Ukrainian children from religious persecution, Cambodian children from genocide, Haitian children from earthquakes, Sudanese children from civil war, and New Orleans children from Hurricane Katrina."

Referring to those *St. Louis* passengers, Patrick said, "Once, in 1939, we turned our backs on Jewish children fleeing the Nazis, and it remains a blight on our national reputation. The point is that this good Nation is great when we open our doors and our hearts to needy children, and diminished when we don't."

And *Leviticus*? Often misused and abused, but now heed 19:34: "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt." ■





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LAVENDER'S 500TH ISSUE PARTY AT LE MERIDIEN CHAMBERS

AUGUST 7, 2014














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UPTOWN, LORING, AND POWDERHORN PARK ART FAIRS

AUGUST 3, 2014


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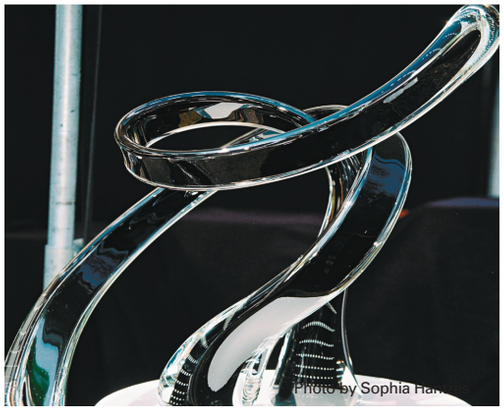
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OBITUARY | BY ELLEN KRUG

Kelly L. Phillips 1965-2014



These words don't flow easily. They can't. In fact, it hurts like hell to write them.

On Monday, August 11, 2014, at approximately 8:30 a.m., the world at large lost Kelly L. Phillips to horrific, unimaginable violence.

Kelly was born in Mason City, Iowa on September 23, 1965. He attended a Catholic high school in Mason City and later graduated from the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa College of Law. Kelly married high school sweetheart Kathleen Simon, but after several years of marriage they divorced (Kathleen remained a friend and confidant). Kelly then began living authentically as a proud and out gay man.

In 2000, Kelly started with Boston Scientific where he quickly rose to the position of Vice President and Chief Counsel—Worldwide Businesses. This was an exceptional accomplishment for someone so young and relatively new to the legal profession.

At the time of his death, Kelly was engaged to Nathon Bailey. Their wedding was scheduled for the end of August, 2014.

That wedding will never happen. Instead, Kelly's funeral took place in Mason City on August 16.

In addition to Nathon, Kelly is survived by his parents Judy and Jim and siblings Bob, Bill, Kim, and John, along with many nieces and nephews. Each of these humans will forever be scarred by Kelly's death.

How tragedy always ripples.

Now for some personal reflection about Kelly Phillips, who was my friend.

I met Kelly two years ago when I joined the Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association board of directors. I quickly learned that the tall, beautifully chiseled, blond man seated on the other side of a worn conference room table was, like me, a lawyer with Iowa roots. When I subsequently heard he was GLBT, also like me, Kelly and I became more than mere colleague board members.

In the months that ensued, I visited the rehabbed loft that Kelly and Nathon shared. Hosting the board's Christmas party, Kelly happily gave a personal tour of the loft. He was gracious and welcoming, just as I would expect any former Iowan to be.

On that evening, I also watched Kelly and Nathon interact; they obviously loved each so very much.

I came to appreciate that this new friend of mine was fairly unique in his approach to the world. Despite a very prestigious position with Boston Scientific, I never sensed that Kelly ever took himself too seriously. Indeed, he was very much the opposite—down to earth, affable, humorous, and always willing to give of his time and/or checkbook.

I quickly respected Kelly's passion, something that's relatively rare in this world of self-absorption and "what's in it for me," especially when it comes to some people with means. Yes, as you may know, he worked to defeat the anti-marriage amendment and afterward campaigned for marriage equality. However, what I remember most is another campaign—one involving Kelly's almost singlehanded attempt to defeat the emerald ash borer in his beloved Marcy-Holmes neighborhood.

Maybe you've seen the big green banners wrapped around the spectacular ashes on Main Street in Saint Anthony Main?

Many of those banners were put there by Kelly. He understood the importance of preserving tall beautiful living things.

Of course, another human didn't respect that about Kelly himself.

Early last year, Kelly asked for my nonprofit's help to connect the Boston Scientific legal department with poor people who needed lawyers to protect against losing basic rights like housing or access to government programs; Kelly so wanted to positively impact the world even further. In my line of work, this type of pro bono volunteerism is crucial.

Regardless of class or age or color or gender identity or any of the other things that artificially separate us, people need to step up to help each other.

That was Kelly's motto, I'm absolutely sure.

Later, when my nonprofit had its first-ever fundraiser, Kelly came through by lining up Boston Scientific as a sponsor. My email response: "You rock for making this happen!"

Imagine my surprise when, in addition to his employer's check, Kelly sent along a personal check in an amount that easily made him one of the most generous of individual donors to my nonprofit, ever.

In short, Kelly made many things happen in tremendously good ways.

Yet, Kelly Phillips very prematurely took his last breath while lying on the hard, unforgiving blacktop of a pristine Holiday gas station near Arden Hills, Minnesota.

I just have to ask: *Why*?

How many people do we need to lose before, as a society, we understand that access to mental health resources is a civil right?

When will mainstream media consistently promote mediation and nonviolence as the only real solutions to personal disputes?

Can we even grasp that domestic violence is an appalling national epidemic?

Will we ever not see the glorification of guns on television and movie screens?

What will it take to achieve the collective refrain, "Kindness trumps hatred"?

In the end, I only really know two things: no one has answered these questions for me.

And my friend Kelly Phillips is dead. ■



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OUR LAVENDER

"BEAR" WITH ME (WHILE I TELL YOU ABOUT)...

| BY BARRY LEAVITT

THE BRUNCH BRIGADE

The Freehouse • September 7 • 10am
701 Washington Ave. N., Minneapolis

Join Lavender Magazine and the Minneapolis Movie Bears for brunch at one of the most popular spots in the North Loop. The Brunch Brigade is a fun way to explore the Twin Cities brunch scene and enjoy a delicious meal while having great conversation with a great group of men and women. Seating is limited so reserve your seat(s) before the event sells out. Reserving your spot is easy. Just log on www.minneapolismoviebears.com and pay $5 per person. When you show up at the event, you get your $5 back to put toward your bill. We'll also be doing drawings for prizes, including a free brunch for two at the next Brunch Brigade. For more information, search "The September Brunch Brigade" on Facebook.

KINK U MINNEAPOLIS WEEKEND

September 12-14
eagleBOLTbar • 515 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis
The Saloon • 830 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis
Twin Cities Leather & Latte • 2717 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

Kink U is coming back to Minneapolis and they're making a full weekend of events and classes. They'll be splitting our time between the eagleBOLTbar, The Saloon, and Twin Cities Leather & Latte. The list of topics for the weekend include, but is not limited to Blade Play for Beginners, Interactive Rope Class, Restraints, Art of Submission, Rope Harnesses, Flogging 101, Advanced Flogging Workshop, Straight-Razor Shaving, Create your own Toys, Kink and Social Media, Titleholder/Contest Discussion. For a complete schedule, visit "Kink U Minneapolis Weekend" on Facebook.

FALL FINE ARTS SHOW

September 19 – October 5
Solar Arts Building • 711 15th Ave. NE, Minneapolis

Presented by the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA), the Fall Fine Arts Show is an annual exhibition of more than 150 members' artwork. It's a great opportunity to view and purchase a vast collection of quality and diverse artwork including painting, photography, sculpture, mixed-media art, and much more—all in one location. Free parking is available. Visit www.nemaa.org/fall-fine-arts-show for more information.

APPLE PICKING WITH THE MOVIE BEARS

September 20 • 10:30am
Minnesota Harvest • 8251 Old Hwy. 169 Blvd., Jordan

The age-old Movie Bear tradition of apple picking is back. Of course, with fall almost here, winter is not far behind. That means the bears must forage for food before hibernation. Some of the varieties available for picking include Haralson, Honeygold, MN 1661, Honeycrisp, RedKist, Redwell and Sweet 16. If you haven't been apple picking before, join the bears for what's always a fun time. For more information, search "Apple picking with the Movie Bears" on Facebook or visit www.minnesotaharvest.net.

MN4MN FASHION WEEKEND

September 19-20
Shops at West End • 1621 West End Blvd., St. Louis Park

Imagine a NYC style fashion week event in Minnesota... MN4MN brings the glamour and production of the best fashion shows to Minnesota for one weekend. MN4MN is a weekend—long fashion extravaganza showcasing everything fashion—from national renowned retailers to local boutiques, artists, and designers. The showcase will include two fashion-packed days of runway shows featuring top models, entertainment, boutique/retail hotspots, designer highlights, libations and palette-teasers, VIP upgrades and more! MN4MN will be New York runway style brought to Minnesota, and it's the event that fashion lovers and trendsetters have been waiting for! Featured designers include Christopher Straub, Duluth Pack, Emma Berg, Faribault Woolen Mills, Freedom From Doubt, Hackwith Design House, Handsome Cycles, Marked Leather, Mill City Fineries, Oh Dier, Oie Jewelry, Sanborn Canoe, Stephanie Lake Design, and more! Visit www.mn4mn.com for more information and a complete schedule of events.. ■

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When John discovers his sister's fiancé is Jack, his childhood crush, passions ignite and his life spirals out of control... losing his job, his playboy reputation and his underwear – all while rushing to the altar to finally confess his love! Set in Vancouver's East-meets-West glamorous restaurant industry... the challenge for both John and Jack is to find a way to blend money, sex, love and family into one sumptuous recipe for life.

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Fall Arts & Dining

THEATRE REVIEWS BY JOHN TOWNSEND
RESTAURANT PAIRINGS BY JOY SUMMERS
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Sexy Laundry. Photo by Petronella Ytsma



The Wolf of Wal-Mart. Photo courtesy of Brave New Workshop



Underpants. Photo by Rich Fleischman

The Wolf of Wal-Mart

Brave New Workshop
www.bravenewworkshop.com
through November 1, 2014

The shrewd ways in which corporations and mass retailers pick our brains and control our actions are revealed in this new revue by the region's premier comedy theater troupe. There's an Orwellian edge to this piece unlike any Brave New Workshop show of recent years. You may realize that corporations manipulate your mind!

PAIRED WITH: THE LOWRY

Fun, raucous, and always a good time, the Lowry matches culinary wits with BNW. Order oysters like there's no tomorrow and enjoy a couple of their drinks alongside comfort food favorites with select modern twists.
www.thelowryuptown.com



Oysters at The Lowry. Photo by Mike Hnida

The Book of Mormon

Orpheum Theatre
www.hennepintheatretrust.org
through September 14, 2014

This South Park-style musical satire on Mormon missionaries and Uganda natives is not heavy on the research of the two groups it skewers, but audiences and critics don't seem to mind. A phenomenal global hit. Nine Tony Awards. As zany as it is, it clearly contrasts ways in which misunderstandings abound between radically different cultures.

PAIRED WITH: SEVEN STEAKHOUSE & SUSHI

This musical is fast becoming a classic, just like downtown's Seven Sushi & Steakhouse. Block E keeps on turning, but this neighboring mega-wattage restaurant continues to host the out-of-town glitterati and discerning diners of downtown. Order the steak because, yes, you've earned it.
www.7mpls.net

The Mystery of Irma Vep

The Jungle Theater
www.jungletheater.com
through October 19, 2014

A haunted estate, the tombs of Egypt, werewolves, and mayhem ignite the lightning-fast costume changes of the classic gender-bending whirlwind comedy. Bradley Greenwald and Stephen Cartmell star in the revival of one of the Jungle's most popular hits ever. Called one of the best plays of 1984 by *The New York Times* and *TIME* magazine.



The Book of Mormon. Photo by Joan Marcus, 2014

Sexy Laundry

Park Square Theatre, Proscenium Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
September 5 - 28, 2014

He thinks if it ain't broke, don't fix it. She thinks there's a problem. And she's right. Alice and Henry check themselves into a trendy spa hotel and attempt to recharge their passion and intimacy after 25 years of marriage. All kinds of memories and resentments turn up. They have a copy of Sex for Dummies, but will it lead them toward a happy ending?

The Underpants

Theatre in the Round
www.theatreintheround.org
September 5 - 28, 2014

German playwright Carl Sternheim's farce was banned in 1911. Set the year before that, a woman's undergarment accidentally falls to her ankles while she and her husband watch a parade. To give you an idea of just how uptight it was then, it causes a scandal that threatens her husband's career. Adapted for stage by comedian Steve Martin.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



Hello, Dolly!

Chanhassen Dinner Theatres
www.chanhassentheatres.com
September 5, 2014 - February 21, 2015

Dolly Levi is a delightfully scheming busybody who makes her living as a matchmaker in turn of the century, glamorous New York City. She's out to make a match for Horace Vandergelder, the "well-known half-a-millionaire," with the charming hat maker, Irene Molloy—but in the process, Dolly snares a groom for herself. Dolly masterfully orchestrates romance and adventure in a glittering mixed up night on the town. Audiences should be on the lookout for the show's rousing title tune hailed as one of the greatest production numbers in American musical theater history: "Hello, Dolly!"

Hello, Dolly! Photo by Heidi Bohnenkamp, 2014

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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ChanhassenDT.com



The White Snake. Photo by Liz Lauren

The White Snake

Guthrie Theater's McGuire Proscenium Stage
www.guthrietheater.org
September 9 - October 19, 2014

Tony Award-winner Mary Zimmerman adapted gay Roman poet Ovid's *Metamorphoses* into a superior stage play. Her brilliant capacity for apprehending the mystical past is again brought to bear in an adaptation of the ancient and beloved Chinese tale. For centuries, a gentle white serpent spirit lives coiled on a mountaintop. She and 'Green Snake' descend to the human realm and she is threatened by a judgemental monk.

PAIRED WITH: RAINBOW CHINESE Z RESTAURANT & BAR

Tammy Wong's Nicollet Avenue restaurant has become an institution. It continues to be one of the most beautiful spots along the stretch of Minneapolis' Eat Street and it's a fantastic place to go with a crew of diners. Sit around one of their lazy Susans and order up a myriad of dishes to share.
www.rainbowrestaurant.com



Rainbow fare. Photo courtesy of Rainbow Chinese Restaurant & Bar

Test Pilot

The O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at St. Catherine's University
www.theoshaugnessy.com
September 12 - 13, 2014

As part of The O'Shaughnessy Women of Substance Series, soprano Carrie Henneman Shaw plays Katherine, the sister of iconic aviator-inventors Wilbur and Orville Wright. A string quartet, six vocalists, and dancers known for their work with Ballet of the Dolls and James Sewell Ballet perform the new dance opera composed by Jocelyn Hagen and choreographed by Penelope Freeh.

If We Were Birds

Nimbus Theatre
www.tctwentypercent.org
September 13 - 27, 2014

The style of Greek tragedy blends with commentary on the effects of war on women over the past century. *If We Were Birds* spotlights millions of female victims who have been silenced through violence and reminds us how women have been integral to antiwar movements. Winner of the 2011 Governor General's Award for Drama.

PAIRED WITH: LIBERTINE

The emotional brutality of a powerful play like this calls for something that's simply fun to release the tension. While the weather holds, head up to the rooftop above the newly opened Libertine and take in the serenity of an Uptown sunset. Revel in the cocktails, either alcoholic or non, they are all fun to drink. Then, tuck into an enormous hunk of meat. Suck the marrow of life—or their bone marrow on toast—and appreciate every great moment we're afforded.
www.libertinempls.com



Fish & Chips. Photo courtesy of Anchor Fish & Chips

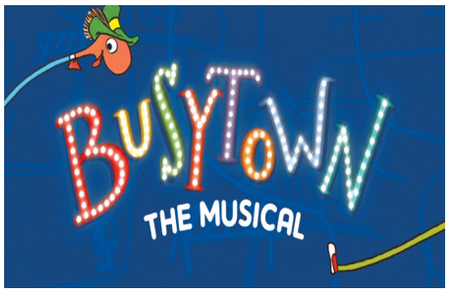
The New Electric Ballroom

The New Century Theater
www.franktheatre.org
September 12 - 28, 2014

Enda Walsh is one of Ireland's foremost contemporary playwrights. He is known for his absurdist, far-fetched uses of language and situations. For example, in a fishing village, two sisters caution their younger sister about men and pleasure by re-enacting a night with a seductive musician in the 1960s. Walsh actually has a Twin Cities following.

PAIRED WITH: ANCHOR FISH & CHIPS

Settle in with a dark pint of stout that slowly settles in the glass. The creamy foam cascades into waves of darkness; bitter and faintly sweet in the glass. Throw in a perfectly battered piece of fish the size of a child's arm along side enormous fries and it's a taste of all things salty, bitter, and wonderful. The tastes mirror the emotional journey you'll take through this play.
www.theanchorfishandchips.com



Middle Brother

The Southern Theater
www.muperformingarts.org
September 12 - 28, 2014

You may know Erick Sharp by his dynamic performances in plays for Mu Performing Arts. Not surprisingly, he has created a play to be told in a bold physical theatre style. Middle Brother portrays two brothers born in Korea and how they reunite. How does one reconcile contemporary American life with a newfound Korean past?

Marcus: or the Secret of Sweet

Dowling Studio at the Guthrie Theater
www.pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org
September 9 - October 5, 2014

The final installment of Tarell Alvin McCraney's Brother/Sister Plays, set in Louisiana's superstitious bayou country, is about a gay African American teenager. Connections with ancestors and the dreams and doubts of youth are portrayed in a uniquely poetic style. "Sweet" is code for "gay." You don't need to have seen the previous installments to appreciate this one.

The Heidi Chronicles

Guthrie Theater's Wurtele Thrust Stage
www.guthrietheater.org
September 13 - October 26, 2014

The Heidi Chronicles looms as the Great American Feminist Comedy and is nothing less than a thrilling choice for the nation's flagship regional theater. Playwright Wendy Wasserstein's first masterwork is a cultural historical document, albeit magnificently entertaining, of the problematic widening of women's options from the 1960s to the 1980s. Leigh Silverman, the Tony Award-nominated director (Violet), makes her Guthrie debut with this Pulitzer Prize-winning landmark comedy.

PAIRED WITH:
SPILL THE WINE

Can a woman have it all? Katie Greeman's Uptown restaurant certainly feels that way. A rustically elegant room makes for the perfect place to gather with friends and catch up on all the business of the modern day. The delicious dishes make for great long meals of sharing hand-crafted food late into the evening. The judiciously selected wine list and full bar make it the perfect place to celebrate all of the challenges and rewards that life brings our way.
www.spillthewinempls.com





Half Pint. Photo courtesy of MIA

Busytown The Musical

Children's Theatre Company
UnitedHealth Group Stage
www.childrenstheatre.org
September 16 - October 26, 2014

Richard Scarry's *Busytown* is a children's literature classic. Scarry's way of infusing animals with human characteristics has delighted children for decades. Check out Huckle Cat, Mistress Mouse, Lowly Worm, and Busytown's entire population. This cabaret-style musical, made up of both puppets and people, is written by our local performance king, Kevin Kling.

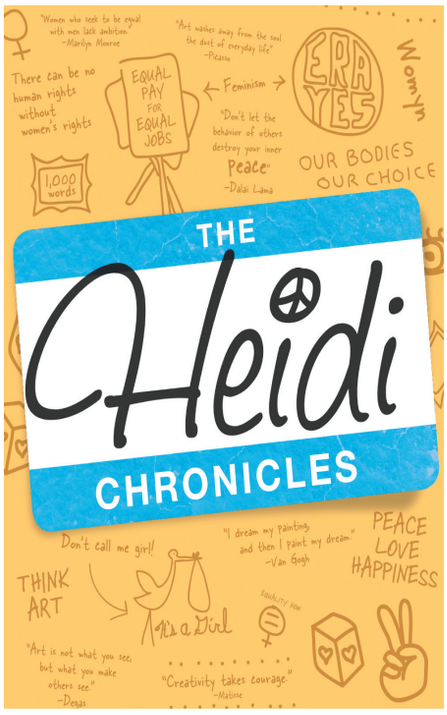
PAIRED WITH:
HALF PINT AT MIA

Before the show, you and your small persons can hop over to Half Pint inside the MIA for a bite at the restaurant geared to serve kids. They serve wholesome food you can feel good about feeding them and a special cookie or similar treat to tuck away for later. Brought to the Institute by the people of Rustica Bakery and Dogwood Coffee, you know they'll have something for you, too.
http://new.artsmia.org/visit/museum-facilities/dining-at-the-mia

4000 Miles

Park Square Theatre, Boss Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
September 19 - October 12, 2014

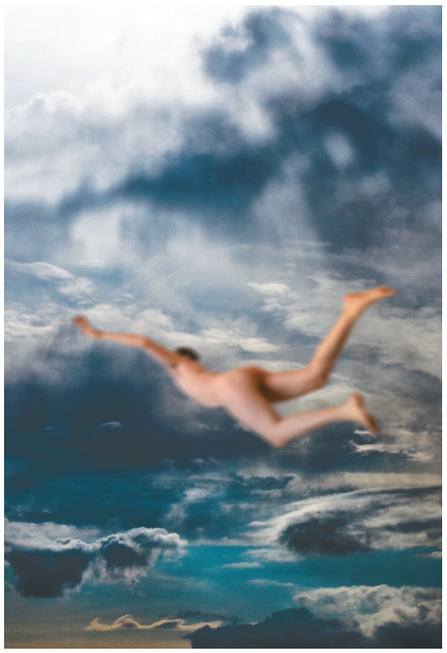
Park Square has been doing a great job of getting new major American plays on its stage, and better said, what is now, its stages, plural. Amy Herzog's play about a grieving 21-year-old man and his feisty 91-year-old grandma won the OBIE for Best New American Play, 2012, was a 2012 Pulitzer Prize finalist, and was deemed *TIME* magazine's Number One Play or Musical of 2012. You'll see the gulf between generations and the hope of meeting on common ground.



Spill the Wine. Photo by Laura Ivanova Photography



CONTINUED ON PAGE 30



Gabriel. Photo courtesy of Walking Shadow Theatre Company





Birchwood Cafe. Photo by Mike Hnida

Gabriel

Minneapolis Theatre Garage
www.walkingshadowcompany.org
September 26 - October 11, 2014

Moira Buffini's acclaimed drama has a naked male soldier washed upon the mine-infested shore of a tiny island in the English Channel occupied by Nazi forces during World War II. Is he German or English? Is he a dream come true or a nightmare? Does fairy magic figure into the fact that he is there?!

Radio Man

History Theatre
www.historytheatre.com
September 27 - October 26, 2014

Can you believe it? It's *A Prairie Home Companion*'s 40th anniversary! Congrats Garrison! Pearce Bunting of HBO's *Boardwalk Empire* is your host over satire and song inspired by radio's most popular variety show. You can expect to see our old friends: private eye Guy Noir, the cowboys Dusty and Lefty, and the folks of Lake Wobegon. It's beloved storyteller Keillor's first full-length play. Truly a special event.

PAIRED WITH: BACHELOR FARMER

Is there anything more Minnesotan than *A Prairie Home Companion*? Celebrate the scenes with the cuisine of our area at The Bachelor Farmer. Their deceptively simple plates of Nordic-inspired fare are all way, way above average. Vegetables are harvested from the rooftop and presented with succinct adornment, like the adorable radishes served with cold, creamery-fresh butter and a little bit of salt. Very good. Nothing too flashy. That's how we roll.

Seed Folks

Children's Theatre Company
Cargill Stage
www.childrenstheatre.org
September 30 - November 9, 2014

Sonja Parks astounded the Twin Cities theater scene a few years back with *No Child* at Pillsbury House. Her new solo vehicle about community gardening is based on 11 narratives written by novelist Paul Fleischman. Community gardening has become more and more popular in recent years. This show promises to uplift.

PAIRED WITH: BIRCHWOOD CAFE

There's no other restaurant in town as actively working to change the food system for the better than Birchwood Cafe. They organize crop mobs to help their farmer friends harvest their bounty, lobby for labeling of genetically modified foods, and both the owner Tracy Singleton and the chef Marshall Paulsen are parents. They let their love for their kids lead their hope in our future, the future of the ecosystem, and are constantly planting seeds of hope for the land and us. Plus, their waffles are ridiculously delicious.

www.birchwoodcafe.com

Jeffrey Hatcher's Hamlet

Illusion Theater
www.illusiontheater.org
October 2 - 25, 2014

Minnesota's most accomplished playwright and screenwriter returns to his Ohio childhood in 1969 where 11-year-old Jeffrey makes his directorial debut as he rehearses his fellow fifth-graders in an adaptation of what's generally considered the greatest drama ever. His filmed screenplays (*Stage Beauty, Casanova, The Duchess*) show his genius for historical drama.



Radio Man. Photo by Craig VanDerShaegen

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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Arena Dances: The Main Street Project

The Southern Theater
www.arena-dances.org
October 2 -5, 2014

Arena Dances has always tapped into current ways of seeing things. We now live in such rush and anxiety that we don't examine how attitudes, relationships, and habits have changed in what is now an information-driven technological planet. Electro/techno/pop music, folk-inspired tunes, film footage, and intense body movement ask the question: does "Main Street" still exist?

The Man in Her Dreams

Nimbus Theatre
www.freshwatertheatre.com
October 4 - 19, 2014

Katherine Glover is known for her GLBT-based journalism, her IVEY Award-winning *Freshwater Goes Back to High School*, and for her hit 2012 Fringe solo show which you can see in ensemble form at Nimbus. *The Man in Her Dreams* deals with accusation, doubt, and hideous crime.

Dirty Dancing

Orpheum Theatre
www.hennepintheatretrust.org
October 7 - 19, 2014

The classic, quintessential '80s pop musical comes to the stage. Baby and Johnny meet at a resort in the Catskill Mountains and merge into an extraordinary summer filled with raunchy dance moves. This production has enjoyed success around the world and points to the universality of the human need for love, no matter who the one you love is.

PAIRED WITH:
MONTE CARLO

Forgive me for what I'm about to do here, but you'll have the time of your life (cringe!) if you take yourselves to Monte Carlo. Order a martini and those ridiculously crusty wings—or a right proper Caesar salad and some chopped liver—and live like those that stayed at Kellerman's. Leave your watermelon at home and remember: nobody puts Baby in the corner.
www.montecarlomn.com

Dirty Dancing. Photo by David Scheinmann, 2008

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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Colossal. Photo by Rich Ryan



33 Variations. Photo by Petronella Ytsma



Master Class. Photo by Heidi Bohnenkamp



Nice Work If You Can Get It. Photo by Jeremy Daniel

Master Class

MacPhail Center for Music
www.theaterlatteda.com
October 8 - November 2, 2014

Master gay playwright Terrence McNally (*Love! Valour! Compassion!*, *Corpus Christi*) adds to the gay playwright tradition of writing great roles for women. Based on master classes held by the legendary opera singer Maria Callas. Sally Wingert plays the solo role. Theater Latté Da and MacPhail Center for Music will co-present this powerhouse script at MacPhail's Antonello Hall.

Colossal

Mixed Blood Theatre
www.mixedblood.com
October 10 - November 9, 2014

This daring show, both in structure and in content, is set up like a football game, with four 15-minute quarters and a half-time show. Two dozen men stud this story of a rising star player and a pro prospect who suffers a horrendous spinal injury. There is also an issue of a man loving one of the teammates and full contact choreography. *Colossal* addresses masculinity, the male body as an instrument for violence, along with athleticism, disability, and dance.

33 Variations

Park Square Theatre, Proscenium Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
October 10 - November 2, 2014

Art has a healing energy all its own. Moises Kaufman, who brought us *The Laramie Project*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, and his stunning stage adaptation of Tennessee Williams's story and screenplay, *One Arm*, delves into how memory and music elicit moments that transform one's life. A contemporary musicologist and Beethoven connect over the centuries.

The Marriage of Bette and Boo

Theatre in the Round
www.theatreintheround.org
October 10 - November 2, 2014

Christopher Durang is perhaps the Baby Boomer generation's top comedic American playwright. He has a distinctively wicked way of skewering family life and traditional values. In Bette and Boo's case, they probably never should have married. Their son, Matt, relates the alcoholism, miscarriages, and religious conundrums. Fasten your seat belts!

Nice Work If You Can Get It

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
www.ordway.org
October 14 - 19, 2014

The Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess* blew away audiences earlier this year, reminding us what great music and great lyrics are! Next, we go back to the 1920s with fabulous dance numbers, glitzy costumes, and, of course, a love story. This brand-new musical features many of George and Ira's beloved hits including "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off," "Someone to Watch Over Me," and "Fascinating Rhythm."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

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Bogart's Doughnuts. Photos courtesy of Bogart's Doughnuts



A Steady Rain

Guthrie Theater's Dowling Studio
www.guthrietheater.org
October 14 - November 2, 2014

Mad Men and *House of Cards* television writer Keith Huff turns his remarkable talent to the stage in this acclaimed drama. Two guys, best buds since kindergarten, have become policemen and family-oriented. However, liquor and a domestic disturbance shift their relationship in a way that profoundly confronts their trust and loyalty.

PAIRED WITH:
BOGART'S DOUGHNUTS

I mean, we are talking about cops here, right? This isn't meant to be a derogatory suggestion, rather an opportunity to check out this new much-buzzed-about doughnut shop. Anne Rucker's fried dough creations are stuffed with wonderful fillings, fried to crispy perfection, and made from dough just sweet enough to melt your heart.
www.bogartsdoughnutco.com

On The Way To Timbuktu

Penumbra Theatre
www.penumbratheatre.org
October 16 - 26, 2014

This acclaimed solo piece runs as part of the nation's flagship African-American theater company's Individual Artists Festival. Writer-actor Petronia Paley, known for her New York stage work and daytime television, weaves many notions together ranging from Shakespeare, to black radicalism, to Paul Bowles, to Africa itself. Praised by *The New York Times*.

Girl Gumshoe and Dectective Dad

Cedar Riverside Peoples Center
www.gadflytheatre.org
October 17 - 26, 2014

Eli Effinger-Weintraub's play has a daughter, Gina, and her father, Troy, playing a detective game from her childhood. However, things take a dangerous turn. How will Gina's girlfriend, Sarita, figure into all this? A good choice for the increasingly solid gender-queer theater troupe, Gadfly.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 38



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Tue, Feb 17

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Fri, Apr 10 & Sat, Apr 11

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Martha Graham's Ying Xin in *Diversion of Angels*.
Photo © Hibbard Nash Photography.

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The House On Mango Street. Photo by Petronella Ytsma



On Golden Pond. Photo by Ann Marsden



Verdant Tea. Photo courtesy of Verdant Tea

Amahl and the Night Visitors

The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts
www.jsballet.org
October 24 - November 2, 2014

The proverbial Three Kings who came bearing gifts to the Christ child in his Bethlehem manger are the focus of one of the enduring Christmas stories. James Sewell Ballet has done marvelous work with archetypes from literature, history, and religion with *Carnival of the Animals* and Dante's *Inferno*. Amahl and company are a perfect fit.

The House On Mango Street

Park Square Theatre, Boss Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
October 24 - November 16, 2014

The childhood neighborhood is a formative element in everyone's personality, whatever that neighborhood was, or whatever those neighborhoods were to you. For poor children, neighborhoods can be plagued with violence and anxiety about sheer survival. Young Latina, Esperanza Cordero, has limited options. Can she buck the negativity?

Grounded

The Playwright's Center
www.franktheatre.org
October 31 - November 23, 2014

Sha Cage plays a fighter pilot reassigned to a desk job where she operates drones by remote control after she finds out she is pregnant. Days are spent tracking those suspected of being terrorists and in the evening she goes back to the innocent world of her little daughter. George Brant's play was named by the *London Evening Standard* and *The Guardian* as one of last year's ten best plays.

PAIRED WITH: VERDANT TEA

Being right in the neighborhood, this makes the perfect opportunity for you to check out the new food and drink menu inside Verdant Tea. The dishes are made to compliment their carefully sourced and elegantly prepared brews. However, if you're in the mood for something a little stronger, their new bar menu is worth exploring. It's another welcome addition to this ever-growing neighborhood's great eating options.
www.minneapolis.verdanttea.com

The Peculiar Patriot

Penumbra Theatre
www.penumbratheatre.org
November 6 - November 16, 2014

Writer-actor Liza Peterson digs into the belly of the beast in her acclaimed solo performance. She exposes how the for-profit prison industry is a twisted collusion between government and corporations to lock away people, mostly men, and mostly African-American men. A powerful indictment of how the War on Drugs, though a Republican invention, has come to control both political parties.

On Golden Pond

The Jungle Theater
www.jungletheater.com
November 7 - December 21, 2014

If you didn't like the film, then see the play (when it's well done and I expect this to be exactly that). The film was misdirected into an oddly pro-Reagan roast of Jane Fonda and won Katharine Hepburn an undeserved Oscar. But you can bet that Wendy Lehr will be superior in the role. In reality, *On Golden Pond* is a beautiful play about aging and forgiveness. Not about turning Jane Fonda into a "bad girl."



Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas

Children's Theatre Company
UnitedHealth Group Stage
www.childrenstheatre.org
November 11, 2014 - January 4, 2015
When the Children's Theatre does Dr. Seuss, be guaranteed you will palpably see and sense the whole Seuss aesthetic. *The Grinch* is perhaps their best example of that and it's great news that it's being revived. The crime wave in Whoville inflicted by the belligerent Grinch turns into a transformational journey for everyone.

Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas. Photo by Dan Norman

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40



A Christmas Carol. Photo by Michael Brosilow

A Christmas Carol

Guthrie Theater's Wurtele Thrust Stage
www.guthrietheater.org
November 13 - December 28, 2014

It will be the 40th anniversary of the Guthrie's annual production of the Charles Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol*. Crispin Whittell's stage adaptation of the original maintains the generous spirit that the original was created in. Scrooge's hyper-acquisitive sense of greed has become a symbol of inherent problems with our economic system and how our capacity for kindness is challenged by our fear of scarcity.

PAIRED WITH:

CAFE LEVAIN

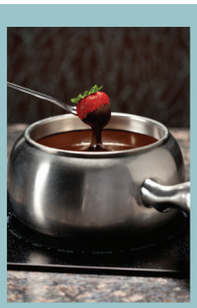
It's that time of year again, when the snow falls, the heart brims with love for your fellow man, and the stomach craves roasted classics. My winter isn't complete without at least one serving of the most perfectly roasted bird in town: the succulent chicken with the salty, crisp skin from Adam Vickerman's kitchen. They have a gift in this kitchen and it's being made right now, just for you. www.cafelevain.com



Cafe Levain. Photo by Mike Hnida

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42





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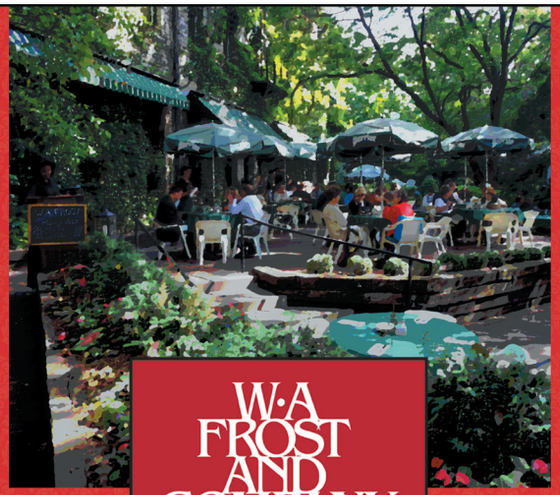
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Mu Daiko In Concert. Photo by Michal Daniel





A Midsummers Night's Dream. Photo by Petronella Ytsma



Borough/Parlour. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Mu Daiko In Concert

Mixed Blood Theatre
www.muperformingarts.org
November 13 - 16, 2014

The Asian drumming tradition has become a staple and a hot ticket for the region's premier Asian-American performing arts troupe. Nationally recognized, the Mu ensemble celebrates its 18th season of taiko with revived variations of past arrangements plus new compositions. Choreographer Joe Chvala of The Flying Foot Forum also brings his own imaginative talents into the mix.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Park Square Theatre, Proscenium Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
November 14 - 16, 2014

The most popular comedy of all time. Shakespeare has a fairy chorus illuminating a wonder world of dreams where mistaken identities and confused lovers make bizarre choices. It's poetic, fantastical, and hilarious. It could make you wonder if the world of dreams and fantasy might actually coexist with the corporeal world you and I live in every day.

Witness for the Prosecution

Theatre in the Round
www.theatreintheround.org
November 14 - December 14, 2014

The Queen of Mystery Thrillers, Dame Agatha Christie, is one of the best-selling writers in human history. And her plays are some of the most widely produced worldwide. A young man and a rich older woman spend evenings together. So when she is found murdered, guess who the prime suspect is!

Zenon Dance Company's 32nd Fall Season

The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts
www.zenondance.org
November 21-30, 2014

One of the region's great companies for contemporary dance features Cuban choreographer Osnel Delgado of the MalPaso Dance Company and winner of some major Cuban dance awards. Zenon blends innovation with modern traditions to gorgeous effect. Zenon has been formative in solidifying the Twin Cities' rep as one of the most important centers for dance in North America.

The Cocktail Hour

Guthrie Theater's McGuire
Proscenium Stage
www.guthrietheater.org
November 22, 2014 - January 4, 2015

A.R. Gurney is one of the most widely produced playwrights around (Sylvia, The Dining Room). For those who prefer holiday fare that isn't standard, then *The Cocktail Hour* with its humorous insights about family loyalty is an ideal choice. The story involves a playwright with very uptight, upper-crust parents. Martinis, revelations, and recriminations abound. Maria Aitken, who staged *The 39 Steps on Broadway*, directs.

PAIRED WITH: PARLOUR

Parlour has the perfect mix of craft cocktails, easy ambiance, and ridiculously good food. If you've tried their burger, you know what I'm talking about. Their seasonally changing Manhattan is second to none and stepping inside, while the snow is falling and the drinks are flowing, it's like you could be at any moment in time, anywhere in the urban world, except you know that no one is having a better time than you.
www.boroughmpls.com



Irving Berlin's White Christmas. Photo by Kevin White



2 Pianos, 4 Hands. Photo by Petronella Ytsma



A Very Asian Christmas Concert. Photo by Heidi Bohnenkamp

Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story

History Theatre
www.historytheatre.com
November 22 - December 21, 2014

The dreamy boy with a dreamy voice from Lubbock, who recorded with the Pettys at Nor Va Jak Studio in Clovis, is the subject of what's sure to be one whale of an entertaining show. This endlessly popular hit—part biography, part rock concert—has 24 hit songs including "Peggy Sue," "Oh Boy!," "Rave On," and "That'll Be the Day."

Irving Berlin's White Christmas

Orpheum Theatre
www.hennepintheatretrust.org
November 25 - 30, 2014

The classic holiday movie blockbuster is recreated on stage with its beloved Irving Berlin score. You'll hear "Blue Skies," "How Deep is the Ocean?" and, of course, the title song which would become the quintessential American holiday tune. Two pals perform at a magical Vermont inn and magically find true love! How dreamy is that!

PAIRED WITH:
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Enjoy the festive dining room where it feels like everyone inside is just a friend you haven't met yet. Besides, if you break out into musical-inspired song and dance here, no one is going to notice. Burch continues to serve some of the best steak around plus those divine sides that will haunt your dreams for years to come. It's the crab and sea bean salad—she calls to me. Gossamer strands of sea meat almost look like drifts of snow.
www.burchrestaurant.com

The Whale

Mixed Blood Theatre
www.walkingshadowcompany.org
November 26 - December 20, 2014

A six-hundred-pound recluse eats himself toward death in Samuel D. Hunter's acclaimed play set in Idaho's Mormon country. Desperate, he tries to reach out to his teenaged daughter but she rejects him with cruel zest. This is a play that has been getting produced across the nation and has been garnering rave reviews.

2 Pianos, 4 Hands

Park Square Theatre, Proscenium Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
November 28 - December 21, 2014

It may sound strange but there was a time when, by and large, one identified with one, maybe two, types or genres of music. However, our postmodern period has collapsed that. Masses of people have broad eclectic tastes. That's why there's broad interest in watching and hearing two piano whiz kids play music ranging from Bach and Mozart to Billy Joel.

A Very Asian Christmas Concert

The Southern Theater
www.muperformingarts.org
November 29 - 30, 2014

Santa hits the bottle. Jasmine feels depressed. So Mu Performing Arts shows us how their spirits will lift and ultimately rule supreme. If you find holidays to be a "down in the dumps" time, then this is an ideal tonic. The charming Randy Reyes will host in drag and we will see naughty cabaret showcases served up with tasty food and drink. And taiko, too!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44



Black Nativity. Photo by Ann Marsden



Motown The Musical. Photo by Joan Marcus

A Christmas Story, The Musical

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
www.ordway.org
November 29 - December 28, 2014

One of the most popular Christmas films became a stage comedy and will receive a polished production at the Ordway. Young Ralphie Parker goes on a quest to make the air rifle of his dreams end up under the family tree. Quirky and heartwarming, this is a contemporary story that can actually be said to be tried and true.

Black Nativity

Penumbra Theatre
www.penumbratheatre.org
December 4 - 21, 2014

Clearly one of the Twin Cities' annual holiday events, a not-to-miss tradition. Lou Bellamy narrates the Nativity story accompanied by holiday favorites sung by acclaimed soloists such as Yolande Bruce, Tonia Hughes, Greta Oglesby, Dennis W. Spears, and the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church Choir. The music direction is by Sanford Moore, so you know it's gonna sound festively wonderful!

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol

Park Square Theatre, Boss Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
December 5 - 21, 2014

Sometimes one wonders if Charles Dickens hasn't usurped the *New Testament* when it comes to Christmas literature. But frankly, there's little doubt that *A Christmas Carol* captures the essence of Jesus's generous and loving spirit. In this new angle on the often stage-adapted classic, cranky greedy Ebenezer Scrooge's miserly business partner, Jacob Marley, figures into the mix. One man plays 16 different roles.

Naked Stages 2014

Pillsbury House Theatre
www.pillsburyhousetheater.org
December 11 - 20, 2014

The outstanding multicultural theater presents its annual series in which three artists have spent seven months developing edgy new work. PaviElle French looks at growing up black in St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood in the Reagan Era. You'll see the dance artistry of B. Billy Xiong and Eric F. Avery's commentary on white privilege.

Motown The Musical

Orpheum Theatre
www.hennepintheatretrust.org
December 16 - 28, 2014

The Motown Record Company is not only seminal in African American cultural history, but it is seminal in American cultural history as a whole. This American Dream treatment of its founder Berry Gordy's life portrays the featherweight boxer who would go on to become the mogul who launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, and Smokey Robinson.

PAIRED WITH:
DAKOTA JAZZ CLUB

Face it, you've already got the songs playing in your head just thinking about hitting this show. See the show about the start of the greats, but dine where many greats may have found their starts. And middles. And returns. The dining choices are plentiful and the pastry chef keeps the sweets surprising. And the cocktails will get your rhythm going before you get to toe-tapping to the Motown tunes.
www.dakotacooks.com

All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914 by Peter Rothstein

Pantages Theatre
www.theaterlatteda.com
December 17 - 21, 2014

We say we hate war, yet it runs rampant. When a German soldier steps into the battle space and starts singing "Stille Nacht," his allied enemy soldiers lower their guard and both sides celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace together. Based on a true World War I story that took place on the Western Front, Christmas, 1914.

2 Sugars, Room For Cream

Park Square Theatre, Boss Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
January 2 - 18, 2015

This has been one of the most popular local small-scale productions of recent years and how wonderful that Park Square is giving it a platform on one of their new stages in their expanded facility. Carolyn Pool and Shanan Custer remind us that no matter how bad things get, there's always coffee. And that sometimes there's even wine!

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie

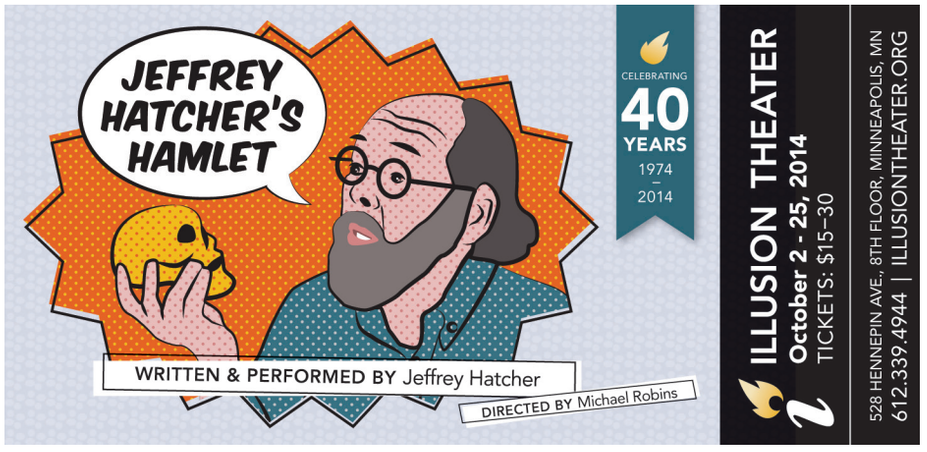
Theatre in the Round
www.theatreintheround.org
January 9 - February 1, 2015

At a Scottish girls' school, the romantic and idealistic Jean Brodie captivates her young students with strong opinions on sexual freedom, progressive politics, and the spectre of fascism, at the expense of the standard curriculum. But when the headmistress obtains a certain love letter, Miss Brodie's life is up-ended.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46


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Snowflake

Children's Theatre Company, UnitedHealth Group Stage
www.childrenstheatre.org
January 13 - February 22, 2015

The clownish comedic artistry of Gale LaJoye is celebrated in *Snowflake*. The show, which originated at Minneapolis's Southern Theater in 1990, may resonate now more than ever because of our ceaselessly struggling economy. A car trunk becomes a bedroom. A fan can become a boomerang. There's even a ballet done on splintered skis.



PAIRED WITH:

TRAVAIL & THE ROOKERY

While the little ones might still be a bit green on the vine for the full tasting course at Travail, the à la carte plates at The Rookery are perfect for adventurous eaters. The dishes are playful, unexpected, and an entirely new way to look at the world through the ingenious plates before you.
www.facebook.com/Travailkitchen

Snowflake. Photo courtesy of Children's Theatre Company
Travail & The Rookery. Photo courtesy of Travail & The Rookery



I Love Lucy. Photo by Jeremy Daniel

The Color Purple. Photo by Petronella Ytsma

The Color Purple

Park Square Theatre, Proscenium Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
January 16 - February 15, 2015

Pulitzer Prize- and Tony-winning playwright Marsha Norman, and composer-lyricists Brenda Russell, Allee Willis, and Stephen Bray, adapted the now classic Alice Walker novel into a Tony-winning musical. Celie's journey from ravaged self-esteem to personal empowerment has become iconic in African-American literature. Yes, it's a wonderful film, but the stage treatment is unique in its own right.

I Love Lucy - Live On Stage

State Theatre
www.hennepintheatretrust.org
January 20 - 25, 2015

As we constantly struggle to adapt to and integrate new technologies, it's worth remembering how unique the old technologies once were. Television's most popular program ever takes us back to 1952. You get to be an audience member in the Desilu Playhouse studio audience and see behind-the-scenes interactions and events of this new-fangled technology called TV. Enjoy advertising jingles and of course, Lucy, Ricky, Fred, and Ethel; four comic geniuses beyond compare.

PAIRED WITH:

HEYDAY

Belly up to the bar inside this hotspot and spend your evening with another talented red-head: bar runner of Heyday, Britt Tracy. Her cocktails will have you primed for great giggles at the show, plus the food that Chef Jim Christiansen is sending out from the kitchen is astounding. The way he plays with flavor, texture, and temperature is a gleeful culinary feat.
www.heydayeats.com



Heyday. Photo courtesy of Heyday



CONTINUED ON PAGE 48



Trick Boxing. Photo by Petronella Ytsma



La Belle Vie. Photo by Mike Hnida

Love and Information

The Ritz Theater
www.franktheatre.org
January 29 - February 22, 2015

Caryl Churchill (*Top Girls*, *Fen*, *Vinegar Tom*, *A Number*, *Far Away*) is, to many of us, the greatest living playwright, male or female. Her latest is comprised of 57 short scenes that expose possible results of our manic desire for knowledge in our information-obsessed society. Expect to be both unsettled and uplifted. That's Churchill for ya!

PAIRED WITH:
LA BELLE VIE

Pair the rapid succession of micro-scenes with micro plates—this calls for a tasting menu! There are plenty of restaurants that allow their chefs free-reign over their menus, but no one does this as well as La Belle Vie. The exquisite play of textures, colors, and flavors are a delight for every one of your senses and the theater of the dining room is unlike any other. You owe yourself the pleasure of this astounding experience.
www.labellevie.us

Trick Boxing

Park Square Theatre, Boss Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
January 29 - February 8, 2015

Take notice here! Brian Sostek and Megan McClellan, one of the most brilliant husband-and-wife acting duos of our day, reprise their extraordinary original piece that has become a performance art classic. Sostek plays an immigrant boxer as well as his exploitive and perilously dishonest manager. McClellan plays a dance hall performer who has his back. Boxing and ballroom dance combine ingeniously!

F.O.B.

Mixed Blood Theatre
www.muperformingarts.org
January 30 - February 15, 2015

Corporate media indoctrinates us to think that all groups, minority and majority, march to the same beat. Wrong! That's why we need penetrating playwrights such as David Henry Hwang. Staged by artistic director Randy Reyes, Hwang's 1980 OBIE-winning play looks at those Chinese who are American born and those who are FOB (fresh off the boat) newcomers.

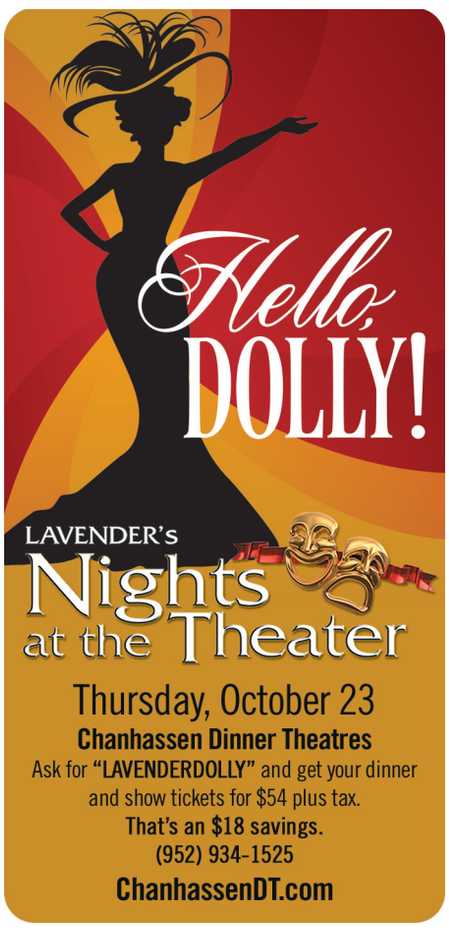
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Oliver!

Pantages Theatre
www.theaterlatteda.com
February 4 - March 1, 2015

Lionel Bart's hard-hitting musical looks at children and poverty in Charles Dickens's England. Based on his popular novel, *Oliver Twist*, there's social consciousness mixed with some of the most memorable tunes of the London stage: "Consider Yourself," "Food, Glorious Food," and "You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two." Peter Rothstein directs. A Broadway Re-Imagined co-production by his own Theater Latté Da and the Hennepin Theatre Trust.

PAIRED WITH:

FOGO DE CHAO

Why not sing along with "Food, Glorious Food," while you've got a touch of the meat sweats? Is there any way to better celebrate the gluttonous good eating that can be done downtown than by having skewer upon skewer of Brazilian charred meat brought to your table? I don't think so. Don't forget that this spot also has one of the most glorious salad bars in all of creation. Load up and know the answer is always "yes" if you even stop to say, "Please, sir, I want some more."

www.fogodechao.com/locations/minneapolis

Oliver! Photo by Heidi Bohnenkamp, 2014



The Biggest Little House In The Forest. Photo by Dan Norman



Fogo de Chao. Photo courtesy of Fogo de Chao

By The Way, Meet Vera Stark

Penumbra Theatre
www.penumbratheatre.org
February 5 - March 1, 2015

Old Hollywood excluded black representation to a stunningly vast degree. There were no leading roles for black actors, and what was available to them was spare and often stereotyped. Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage (*Ruined*) reflects on Vera Stark, a talented black actress struggling in hopes of finding a niche in the silver screen industry of the 1930s.

The Biggest Little House In The Forest

Children's Theatre Company, Cargill Stage
www.childrenstheatre.org
February 6 - March 15, 2015

See what happens when Millie the Mouse wants to move into Bernice the Butterfly's cheery little home. Bernice loves her privacy! Can you blame her? But then comes along Fred the Frog and Bartholomew the Bear. But beware, because there's gonna be lots of pre-school friendly chaos in this all-ages crowd-pleaser!

PAIRED WITH:

TILIA

Is there anything else like the wild rumpus that preschoolers unleash on the world? Make a whole day of this adventure with a visit to Linden Hills (where, lo! there's a bookstore right there for kids called Wild Rumpus—they have ferrets and a chicken!). Tilia might draw in the grown up raves, but I challenge you to find a kid that doesn't adore their menu. Folded up paper serves as a menu; there are crayons and a lively din that welcomes the occassional kid squeal of delight. Fancy hot dogs for everybody!
www.tiliampls.com

Ballet Works Project

The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts
www.jsballet.org
February 6 - 15, 2015

This topnotch company will present a dance laboratory to push the envelope. There will be work by Joanna Kotze, last year's BESSIE Award-winner for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer and Houston's Jane Weiner of Hope Stone Dance. JSB regular Nic Lincoln will also weigh in with work of his own. A great opportunity to see fresh dance work by dance artists truly in their groove.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52



Chef Shack Ranch. Photo by Mike Hnida

The Coward
Red Eye Theater
www.walkingshadowcompany.org
February 6 - 28, 2015
Playwright Nick Jones transports us to the 18th century when a sensitive son pleases his ultra-macho patriarch father by challenging a better shot to a duel. Problem is, the son lacks the nerve to do it so he hires someone in his place. This manly comedy will actually be played by a company of women!

A Midsummer Night's Dream
Guthrie Theater's Wurtele Thrust Stage
www.guthrietheater.org
February 7 - March 29, 2015
David Bolger transported us at the Guthrie with his bedazzling staging of *H.M.S. Pinafore* and his lovely personal statement, *Swimming With My Mother*. Moreover, Guthrie Artistic Director, Joe Dowling, now in his final season, and the man who has directed this Shakespeare's classic for the Big G twice before, will be his partner in mischief! Expect magic!

PAIRED WITH:
CHEF SHACK RANCH
Winter can seem to drag on forever in these parts. So, any break we can get is a welcome one. Whether you're surrounding yourself with imps or tucking into slow-smoked barbecue brisket, it's nice to close your eyes and remember it's warm somewhere. Inside the Seward outpost of Chef Shack, it feels cozy and warm even if you're dining in the midst of a blizzard. Potato salad tastes like lazy August afternoons and the exquisite hospitality of the team will warm you from the inside out.
www.chefshackranch.com

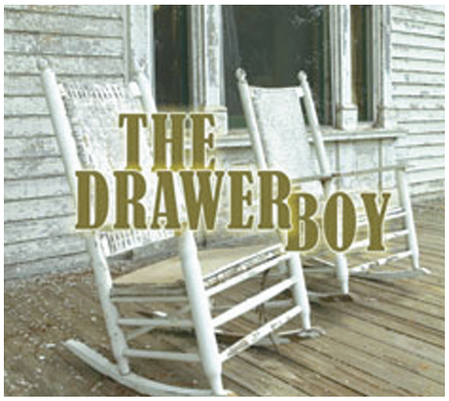
God Girl
History Theatre
www.historytheatre.com
February 7 - March 1, 2015
Kristine Holmgren has written this play about her ordination into the Presbyterian ministry. She reflects on the task of breaking the "stained" glass ceiling. After graduating from Macalester College in the mid-1970s, Holmgren became one of the first of a large group of women admitted to Princeton Theological Seminary's Master of Divinity Program. Summer Hagen stars.

The Drawer Boy
Theatre in the Round
www.theatreintheround.org
February 13 - March 8, 2015
The classic contemporary Canadian play is said to resemble John Steinbeck in its style. The story of a Toronto actor who goes to a farm to do research for an agri-play unravels the secrets of two bachelor widowers who have lived together on the place since the end of World War II.

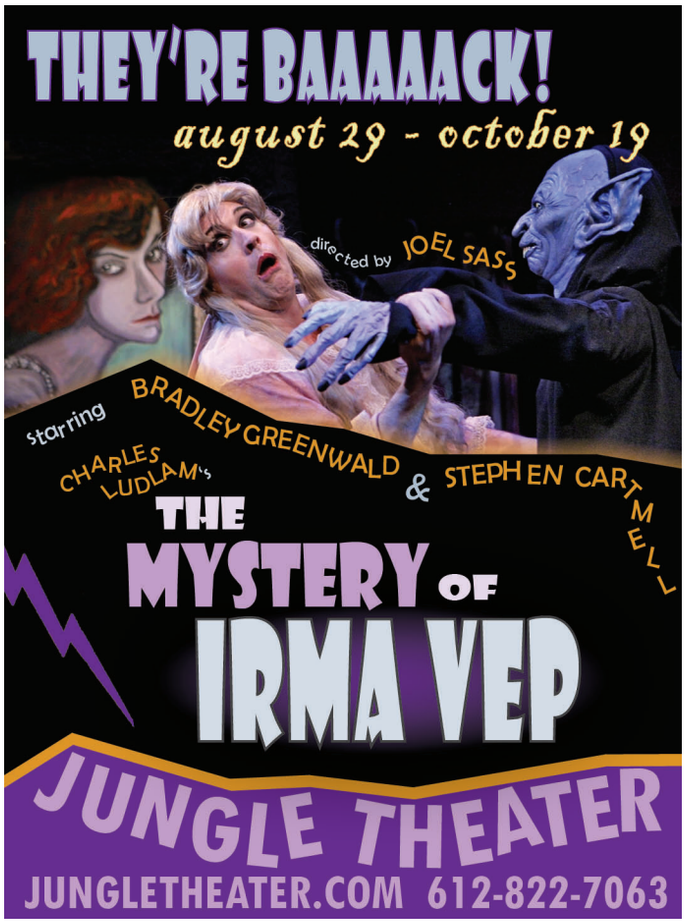
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
Guthrie Theater's Dowling Studio
www.guthrietheater.org
February 14 - March 1, 2015
It's that other big Mark Twain classic, the one you probably never happened to read. So the next best thing is a stage adaptation! When Hank Morgan of 19th century Hartford, Connecticut time travels to 6th century England after a blow to his head, he becomes a medieval hero. He hangs with King Arthur, Lancelot, Guinevere, and magical Merlin.



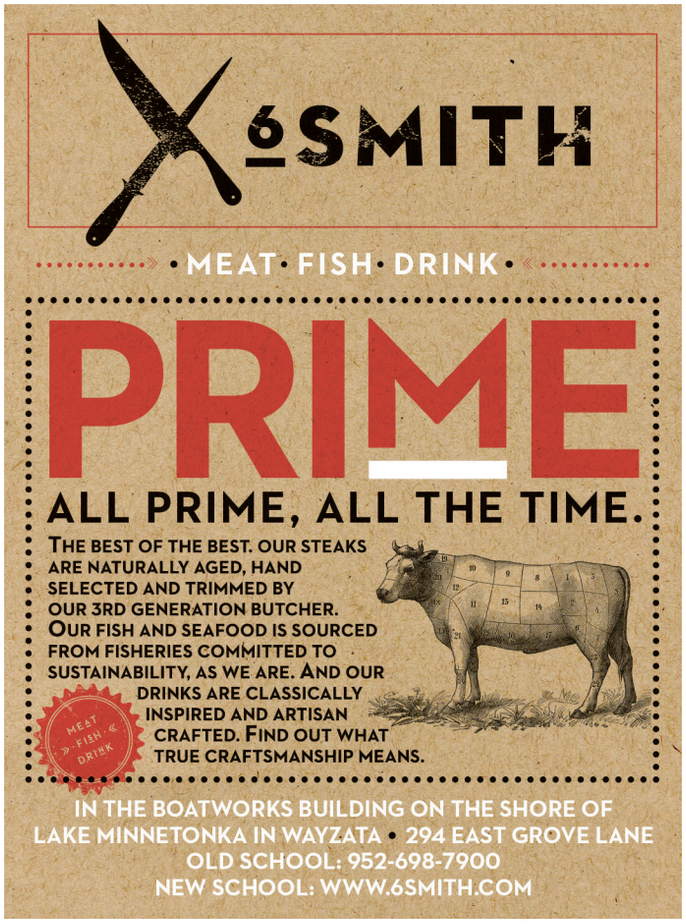
Coward. Photo courtesy of Walking Shadow Theatre Company



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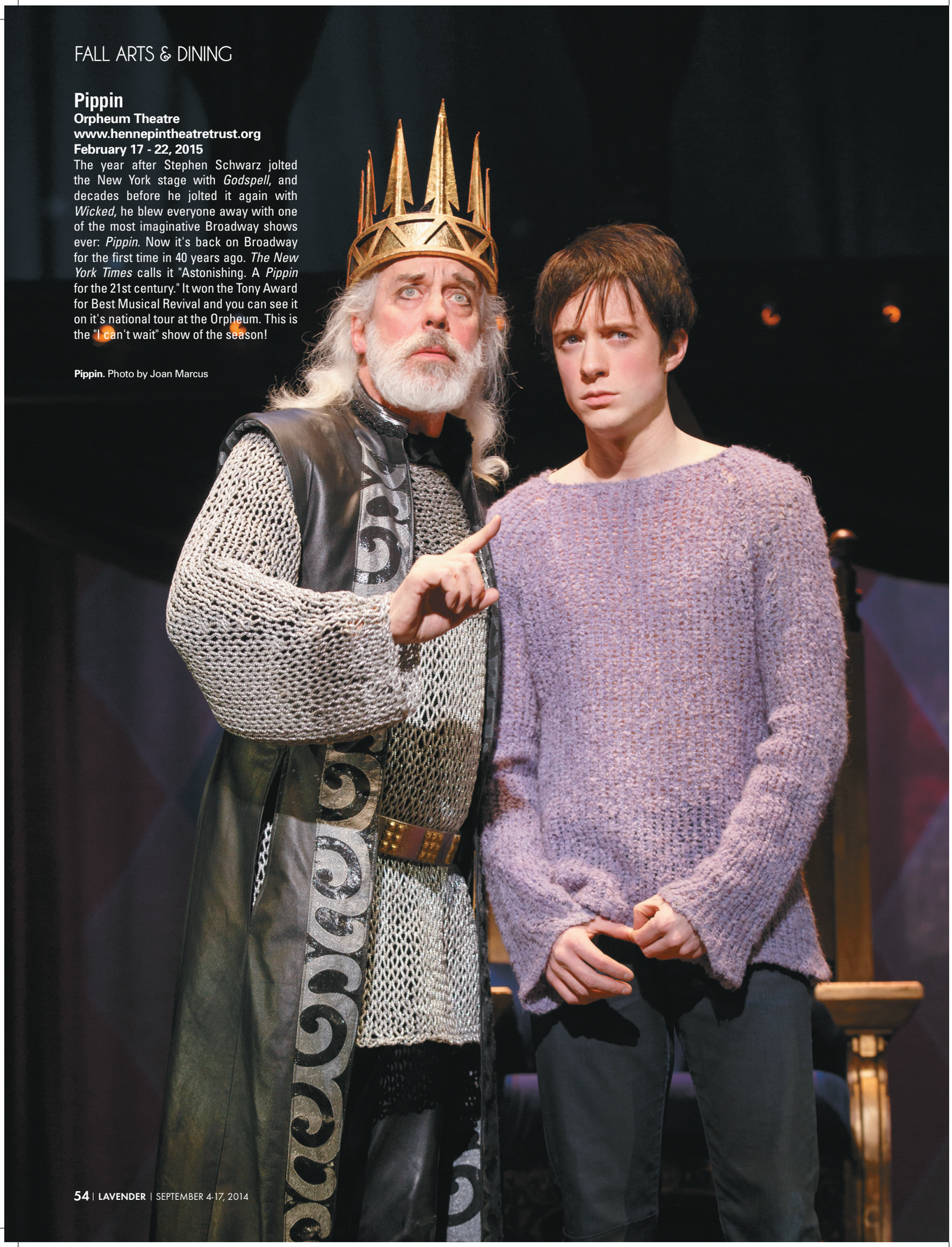

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Pippin

Orpheum Theatre
www.hennepintheatretrust.org
February 17 - 22, 2015

The year after Stephen Schwarz jolted the New York stage with *Godspell*, and decades before he jolted it again with *Wicked*, he blew everyone away with one of the most imaginative Broadway shows ever: *Pippin*. Now it's back on Broadway for the first time in 40 years ago. *The New York Times* calls it "Astonishing. A *Pippin* for the 21st century." It won the Tony Award for Best Musical Revival and you can see it on it's national tour at the Orpheum. This is the "I can't wait" show of the season!



Pippin. Photo by Joan Marcus



Romeo and Juliet. Photo by Petronella Ytsma



Vincent. Photo courtesy of Vincent



Into the Woods. Photo by Heidi Bohnenkamp

Hir

Mixed Blood Theatre
www.mixedblood.com
February 27 - March 22, 2015

When an Afghanistan war veteran comes home after gathering dismembered remains of fellow soldiers, he finds his home has changed. His once-macho father has suffered a stroke. His mother's aggressive tendencies are in full throttle. And his transgender brother is bent on changing gender definitions, hence, the title, *Hir*.

Romeo and Juliet

Park Square Theatre, Boss Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
February 27 - March 8, 2015

It's the most popular drama in human history and Park Square has a solid record of producing strong Shakespeare productions. GLBT folks owe a debt to this classic because it captures the essence of forbidden love in a society structured to erase love that does not conform to archaic standards. Youth's boundless optimism is thwarted by socially bound attitudes that insidiously destroy love and the intimacy needed to nurture it.

Into the Woods

The Ritz Theater
www.theaterlatteda.com
March 4 - 29, 2015

When Stephen Sondheim adapted the Brothers Grimm four fairy tales—*Cinderella*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and *Rapunzel*—into a single ingeniously intertwined delight, it was universally acclaimed. Folkloric-fantasy archetypes such as the baker, his wife, and the witch who has cursed them childless are given new life. Peter Rothstein directs this for his own theater, Theater Latté Da, the region's premiere theater for musicals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56



Disney's Beauty and the Beast

Orpheum Theatre
www.hennepintheatretrust.org
March 10 -15, 2015

The *Beauty and the Beast* story is a consummate tale about the triumph of inner beauty over outer attractiveness. The hit Disney Broadway musical based on the Oscar-winning animated feature film is spectacular yet beautifully interpersonal. It appeals to all ages and can be watched on any number of levels. Inventive and beguiling and packed with great numbers.

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www.vincentarestaurant.com

Disney's Beauty and the Beast. Photo by Amy Boyle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

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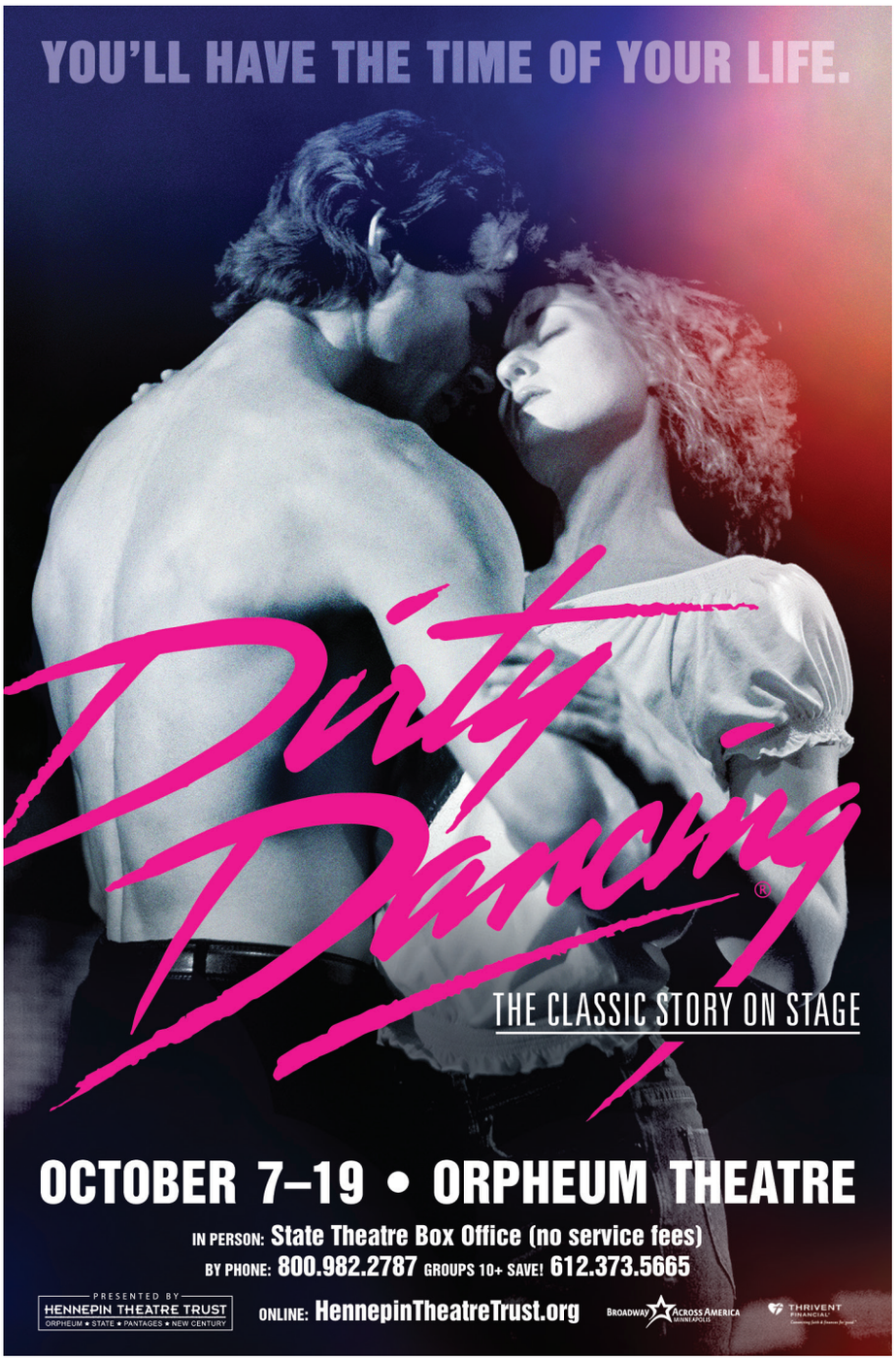
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The Illusionists. Photo courtesy of Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

Vile Affections

Cedar Riverside Peoples Center
www.gadflytheatre.org
March 20 - 29, 2015

Lesbianism in the Roman Catholic Church in the 1600s. Mother Benedetta Carlini says she has had visions for many years and it just so happens she has been accruing power. So one might wonder just how ferocious the patriarchal structure she exists within will react. A new play filled with mystical vibrations. Written by Vanda.

The Debutante's Ball

History Theatre
www.historytheatre.com
March 21 - April 12, 2015

This coming-of-age story, set in Minnesota's Filipino-American community, examines and celebrates the Valentine's Ball and Presentation of Debutantes and Escorts that has been an annual event since 1978. Local artist and former debutante escort Eric "Pogi" Sumangil and six teenagers give us a range of music from traditional Filipino love songs called haranas, to waltz, to hip hop.

The Illusionists

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
www.ordway.org
March 24 - 29, 2015

The world tour of the live magic show that is taking the world by storm features seven mind-boggling illusionists who bend audiences' minds with acts of magic and illusion that you probably have not seen before. Critically acclaimed, we will bear witness to levitation, mind-reading, disappearance, and a full-view water escape.

Shooting Star

Park Square Theatre, Proscenium Stage
www.parksquaretheatre.org
March 27 - April 19, 2015

It can be odd when you get back in touch with someone you knew long ago. As you reconnect, or at least attempt to, you may become sharply aware of how each of you has changed—perhaps, to the point that the other seems unfamiliar. Two old flames reunite during an airport blizzard shut down. She was a hippie. He's turned conservative. Written by Steven Dietz. ■



Suffer Through BigGayNews*

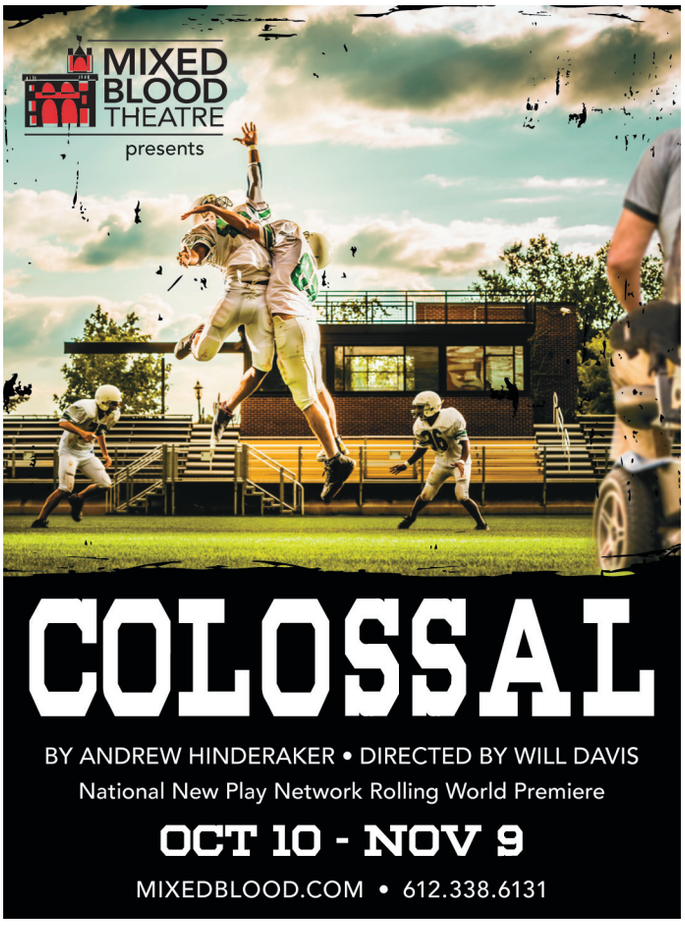
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Kudos to Linda Raines for compiling the top 5 daily stories!

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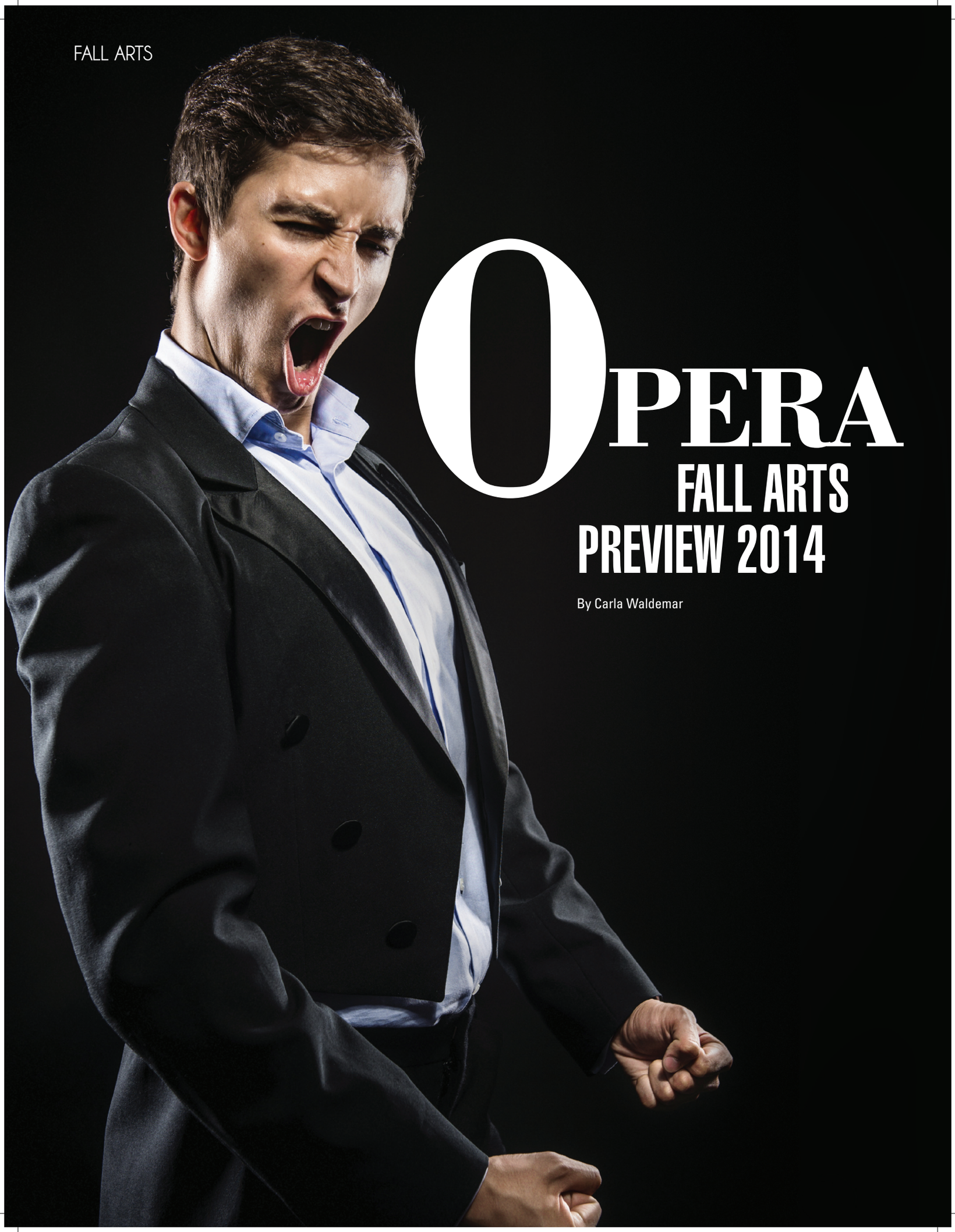
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OPERA

FALL ARTS PREVIEW 2014

By Carla Waldemar







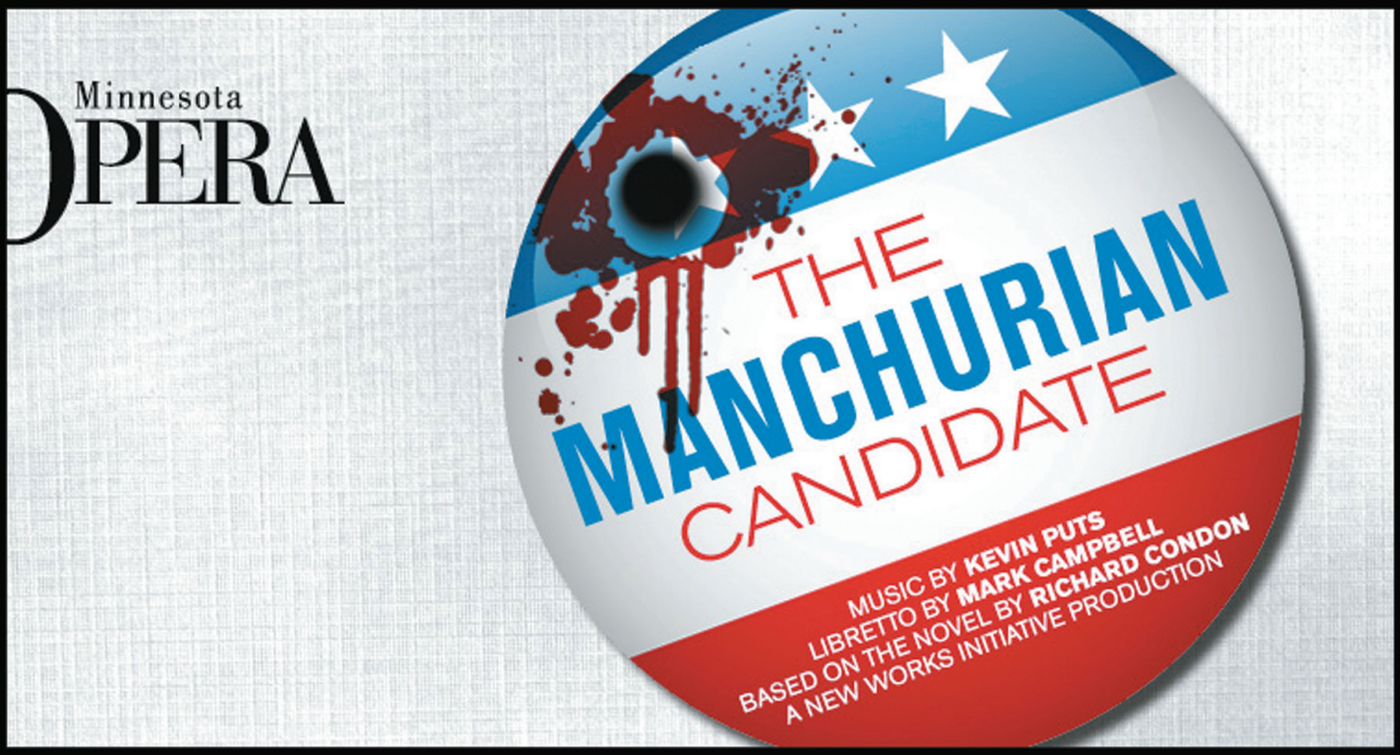


Tip from Dale: Get your tickets now. "***Carmen*** will sell out," predicts Dale Johnson, artistic director of Minnesota Opera, which will stage Bizet's eruption of sizzle, steam and gore (and castanets) as season finale, April 25 through May 10. He's ecstatic, of course.

There's only one catch: Johnson is retiring the company's ultimate *Carmen*, an unforgettable production already mounted three times—most recently in 2005—"so it's scary to replace it. But," he knows, "it's time. So I wanted a very different take on it. I want it colorful, interesting, and—because Carmen herself is an archetype—exotic: like she originally appeared to the first French audiences in 1875. The idea she reiterates is, 'I want to be free! No one's going to step on me, even if it means death.' So for the mid-19th century, she was quite evolved." Nora Sourouzian, a French-Canadian/Armenian mezzo soprano, is "one of the reasons to restage it now. When I heard her, I was bowled over: 'At last! I've found somebody!'"

The season kicks off September 20 with another don't-mess-with-me lady, ahead of her time as well: not in southern Spain but the American Southwest—Puccini's ***La Fanciulla del West*** (Girl of the Golden West), Minnie. It's the wild, wild West as imagined by an Italian guy from Lucca—exotic again, idealized, and in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62



Opera's production, "Beautiful! The three acts employ three different stage sets!"—fitting for a late Puccini opera Johnson calls "Big, broad, exciting—and kind of overwhelming."

Why now? Again, it boiled down to *cherchez la femme*. "Casting it is difficult, especially Minnie. I'd heard British soprano Claire Rutter audition (we'd tried to hire her before, over the years) and said, 'Wow! Can you sing Minnie?'" She's romantically balanced by a rake with a beautiful tenor voice. Greer Grimsley, an Opera audience favorite, will portray the villain, Jack Rance. ("When Greer's available, we hire him!") Add in a rambunctious all-male chorus with lots of gun fighting, and you've got a show.

Just before Thanksgiving (there's a lesson here) comes ***Hansel and Gretel***. But this is not Grandma's production, with cherubic kids in apron and lederhosen. "It's a new production, and very non-traditional," Johnson promises with a sly smile. The story, he says, shares "an affinity for a kind of Route 66 in the Great Depression story—hungry, starving kids. And in those years, the idealized vision of the time was Hollywood: Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers. So"—follow along, here—"we'll set it in a funhouse-fantasy-world carnival they go to. Very colorful, very exciting. There'll be different 'takes' on the usual witch," he promises. "And the angels."

Calls for a stiff drink, I'd say. So does the Opera, so it's followed in January by ***The Elixir of Love***, a frothy comedy by Donizetti, master of bel canto—"and as a bel canto comedy, it's my favorite," divulges Johnson. "I like the characters, based on *commedia del arte* traditions, but also with a warmth to them—not mean, not slapstick, but real emotions. It's very pretty: a warm show in the middle of winter," just when everyone can use a magic potion or two.

Next up, in March, is the world premiere of another work by the Pulitzer Prize-winning duo (awarded for the Opera's *Silent Night*), composer Kevin Puts and librettist Mark Campbell. *Silent Night* was set on the battlefields of World War I. Their new works takes place in the Korean War.

"When we asked them, 'What do you want to do next?' They came right back with ***The Manchurian Candidate***." The chilling story of a soldier brainwashed into becoming an assassin to provoke the overthrow of the U.S. government was first a novel, then the thriller movie of its day. "The story is very operatic," insists Johnson: "fast-paced, very edgy, more like a movie. The music is spiky, but with moments of great beauty. Brenda Harris"—another returning Opera audience favorite—"will play the Angela Lansbury part, one of the great villainesses of moviedom. And Lansbury is Brenda's idol."

All productions are sung in the original language with English translations projected above. For more information, visit mnopera.org.

And for more opera, head to the University of Minnesota's School of Music shows at Rarig Center: a *Carmen* of its own November 20-23 and *The Marriage of Figaro* April 16-19, with live orchestra and singers from the school's program and faculty. In June, Skylark will produce its annual light opera—this year, Puccini's *La Rondine*. The Cowles Center will not offer a concert opera this year, as in the past. Rather, the song-and-drama version of soprano Maria Callas' life on March 15. And there's always the Metropolitan Opera, now that the Met's threatened season lockout has been averted. It simply requires a radio tuned to MPR on Saturday afternoons or a visit to a theater offering a simulcast of the week's production. See metopera.org/metopera/liveinhd/live-in-hd-2014-15-season to locate a movie screen near you. ■

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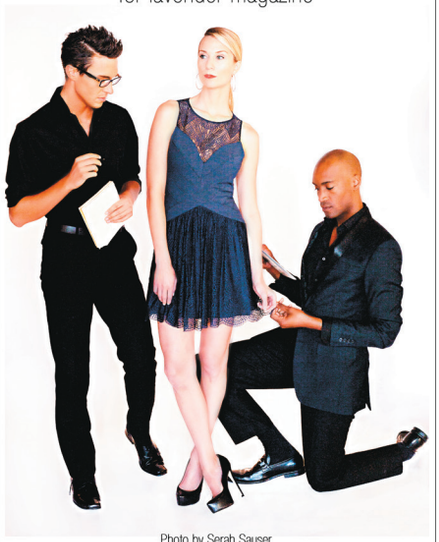


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BELLY UP TO THE BARRE

By Carla Waldemar

We live in a dance hive. The Twin Cities hums with vigorous companies performing modern dance, post-modern dance, post-post, and everything else, from tap to hip-hop, from Afro to flamenco. Soooo, do we need yet another troupe?

Balletomanes holler "Yes!" (Or, if they're Minnesotans, it's more of a muted "You betcha.") And if you happen to be an instructor within a ballet studio, you even more acutely realize the need. It's twofold, says dancer/instructor Zoé Emilie Henrot: A company which stages performances shows students a path to the future. Plus, "it broadens ballet in the [under-served] Twin Cities."

That's how the St. Paul Classical Ballet Company came together two years ago, unique not only in its form but in its makeup. "It's an artist-led company, so all our dancers wear other hats, too," says Zoé, a dancer and artistic director. Another dancer serves as production manager; still others write grants, handle publicity, secure visiting artists, and, probably, sweep the floors. They're paid professionals, employed 20 to 25 hours a week.

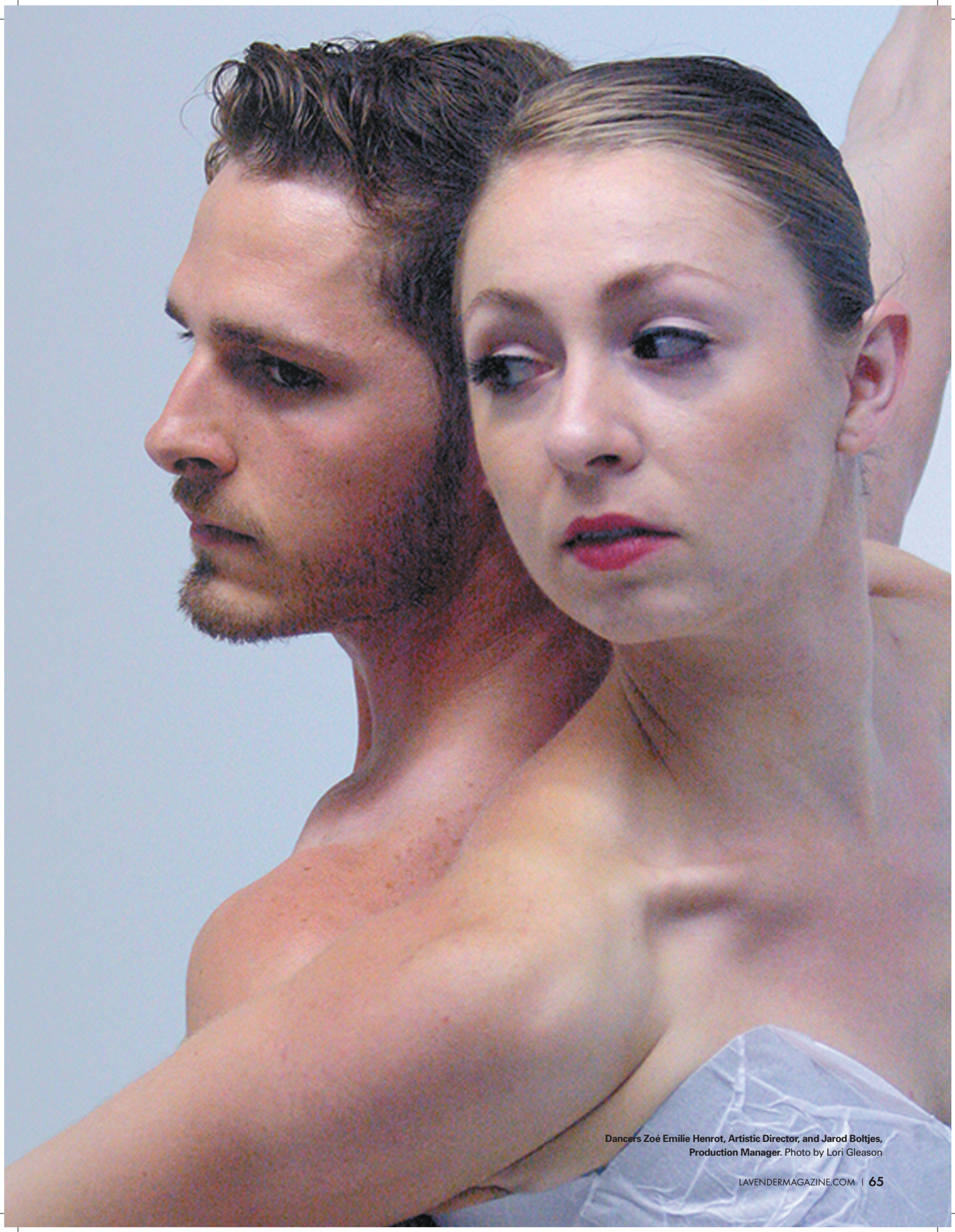
And it works. In its second season, the company has slated three major performances. October 25 features a gallery installation crawl through sites at St. Thomas University. December 18-21 *Clara's Dream*—excerpts from *The Nutcracker*— will be performed at Macalester College. And March 19-22 at the Cowles Center in downtown Minneapolis, SPBC will offer a contemporary dance show, reaching beyond its normal realm with works of guest artists choreographed on the troupe.

Nonetheless, "Ballet is our backbone," says Zoé. "It's a very, very small world here, and we're looking to make it larger." Helping with visibility—if not, possibly, credibility—was the company's stint in the 2013 Pride Parade "with tutus prancing down Hennepin Avenue." Zoé's own work—*How to Be a Gay Individual*— was part of the Fringe Festival, too. She was lured from Colorado to Minneapolis by her partner and welcomes the warmth of the GLBT community—"absolutely a bonding experience." Two of the troupe's male dancers are gay, too, she notes.

Is there a 'gay way' to do ballet? Actually, there can be, with SPCB. "The classic pas de deux"—usually highlighted by a guy holding a girl aloft—"can be performed, instead, with two men, or two women," she instructs.

Speaking of instruction, the company takes that community role very seriously, too. And it goes beyond pliés. Last year it organized a photo series on eating disorders, in conjunction with The Emily Program. "We wanted to show [victims] we care, and also that we love them the way they are," she explains. This year, the company plans to expand that service with a full-length lecture series based on the idea of health—the various ways the body works—open to all. "And we'll expand it beyond ballet—maybe to karate or ice-stating," she hints.

Want a sneak preview? Show up at Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul for Free Ballet Tuesdays on the second Tuesdays of the month at noon. ■



Dancers Zoé Emilie Henrot, Artistic Director, and Jarod Boltjes, Production Manager. Photo by Lori Gleason

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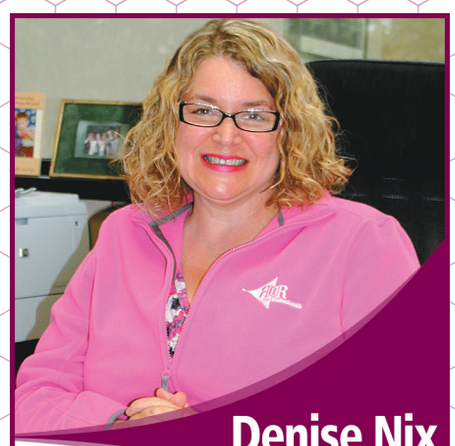


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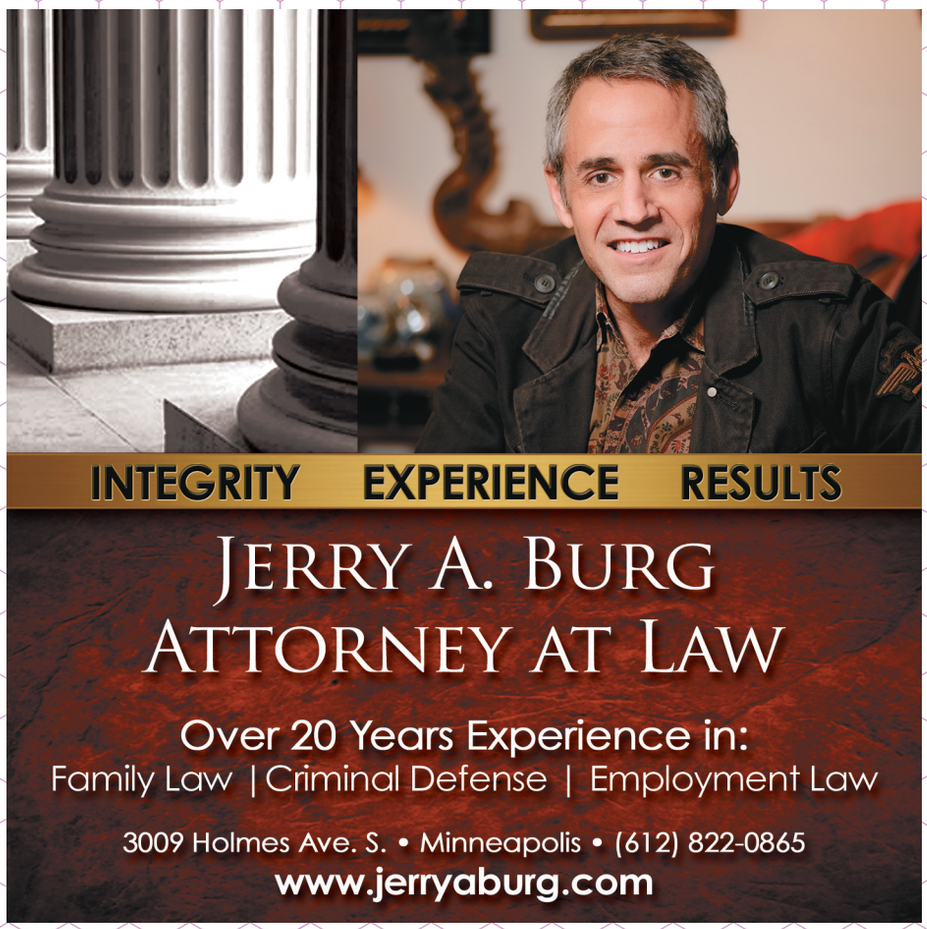






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SPORTS | PLAYING FOR THE OTHER TEAM | BY NELL GELHAUS

Intra-team Dating – Secret Weapon or Achilles' Heel?

All right, ladies. Stop me if you've seen this before. Or if you've lived this before.

It's day one of softball/basketball/soccer/football practice. Your coaches have you participating in some stupid icebreaker. One by one, everyone is introducing themselves: where they're from, what position they play, and perhaps divulging their most embarrassing life experience. The baby dyke (I use this term fondly) in the polo tells a story of getting drunk and dancing on a table at nationals, which is obviously just a humblebrag that her team went to nationals. You mumble something about passing out at a party and waking up with penises drawn all over your face, wishing that it would have happened at nationals, but your team only made it to regionals. F$@k!

You try to pay attention as everyone rattles off their life story, mostly sizing up other girls in the room, curious as to who's going to give you a run for your money for the starting spot. You're bored, waiting for actual practice to start. You just want to get to the drills already...to practice taking a few shots, hits, kicks, tackles, what-have-you. And then…you notice her. Damn, she's hot. You wonder if she's gay. She has her hair pulled back into a ponytail, is wearing a headband, and you overhear her saying, "Yeah, buddy." Of course she is. And if she ~~is pretending she~~ isn't, she will be soon.

Everyone's now acquainted and you're finally on to drills. Suicide sprints. In between gasping for air and puking, you notice that *she's* only breathing slightly harder than normal, and she's starting to sweat, and, damn, those are some BICEPS. And you catch her looking at you.

This, my friends, is a regular occurrence in the world of women's athletics. Why? Because lesbians. The gym/field/court is the only place we can find our two favorite things: women and sports.

A couple months later…who am I kidding, a week later, and you're dating. Attending practices excites you for reasons that have nothing to do with the sport. The two of you are in *sync*. You have your own rhythm. You pass, she shoots. She fields the ball, rockets it to you for the perfect out. She blocks, you run in for the score. No one can disrupt your flow. On the field and off, you're the perfect team. And the actual team is winning a lot of games, due in no small part to your chemistry. You're unstoppable.

Until you're not.

You're out at the team's favorite bar, having just won a very close game against the biggest rivals in your conference. Shots, shots, shots, shots, shots, shots, everyBODY! You're buzzed on life, you're buzzed on love, or maybe you're just buzzed. You down your fifth beer and turn to crack a joke to your girlfriend. Except she isn't there. She's…in the corner making out with the *shortstop*?!

Cut to two weeks later, on the bus on the way home from playoffs and you're single, desperately trying to tune out the sounds of slurping coming from two seats behind you, where your ex and her new flame are playing something other than basketball. If that doesn't make you miserable enough, while they're sucking face, you're seriously sucking on the court. Every shot is off, every pass is dropped and your hot new girlfriend seems to be the bench.

When your ex and her new girlfriend arrive for next practice dressed identically, down to their BOGO matching Under Armour socks and headbands (always with the headbands), you realize that you are faced with the lezbo version of *Sophie's Choice*. So whaddya do, Meryl? Quit the team, or grit your teeth and try not to poke out your eyeballs?

So where does this leave us, ladies? Can we not successfully mix business with pleasure? Do we not date our teammates? That's like telling my dog to stay out of my flower bed. She. Just. Can't. Help. Herself. Further, does the fate of women's athletics hinge on fidelity? The latter, hopefully not, though the issue is serious enough that even the NCAA has felt compelled to suggest a set of ground rules in their downloadable publication for GLBTQ inclusion, [*Champions of Respect*] for coaches training a team of athletes…and couples.

It can be done, as is evident by professional athletes, teammates, and partners Lianne Sanderson and Joanna Lohman of the NWSL's Boston Breakers. Or Abby Wambach of the Western New York Flash and her former teammate and now wife, Sarah Huffman. AND it can be undone, as is evident by the death and destruction of many a women's rec sports team. Whatever you decide, just remember: the choice was yours. ■

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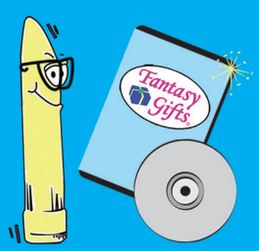
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BIG GAY NEWS | BY LAVENDER | BIGGAYNEWS.COM: YOUR GLBT WORLD NEWS

BIGGAYNEWS FROM MINNESOTA:

Friends Collect $10K In Reward Fund To Find Arden Hills Suspect

WCCO News reports that friends of the man gunned down at a Twin Cities gas station have now created a reward fund in hopes of finding the shooter, and have already collected $10,000.

Lyle "Ty" Hoffman, ex-boyfriend of the victim, is believed by police to be responsible for the murder of Kyle Phillips last week, and has been on the run since the killing took place.

The reward is in addition to $1,000 already offered by Crime Stoppers. Donations to the fund can also be made to the Kelly Phillips Reward Fund. Any information on Hoffman's whereabouts should be reported to the police or to Crime Stoppers of Minnesota at 1-800-222-8477.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM ARIZONA:

Chip Sarafin Comes Out Publicly

ESPN reports that Arizona State offensive lineman Edward "Chip" Sarafin told Compete Magazine that he is gay, becoming the first active Division I college football player to come out publicly.

Citing Michael Sam's earlier coming out as his inspiration for doing so, Sarafin came out to his coach and teammates before the interview, and said that his revelation has "benefited my peace of mind greatly."

Todd Graham, ASU coach, applauded Sarafin's decision, offering both support and praise, saying: "diversity and acceptance are two of the pillars of our program, and he has full support from his teammates and the coaching staff."

BIGGAYNEWS FROM NEW YORK:

Robina Asti Wins An Important Legal Battle For Transgender Couples

People Magazine reports that in the Navy during World War II, Robert Astey flew combat missions and later became a commercial pilot, a mutual fund senior vice president, as well as a husband and father to three children.

However, after transitioning to living as a female, marrying her husband, and being recognized legally as a woman for over 38 years, Asti found herself denied survivor benefits when her husband died in 2012.

With the help of Lambda Legal and the fact that Asti had been legally regarded as female on her Social Security card, her passport, her pilot's license and her federal taxes, Asti won a legal victory to gain spousal survivor benefits and thus caused the federal government and Social Security to change their policy regarding transgendered people.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM CALIFORNIA:

Gay Man Beaten, Left For Dead, Dies After Being Removed From Life Support

LGBTQNation reports that a San Francisco gay man who was beaten and left for dead in the city's Castro District last Sunday was taken off life support Wednesday afternoon while more than 100 people gathered in a silent vigil on a hill in a nearby park.

Bryan Higgins, 31, was found beaten and unconscious as a John Doe on a street corner in the city, and identified only after his hospital photo made the rounds on social media.

Higgins, also known as "Feather Lyn", was a member of the Radical Faeries, and leaves behind a husband and family. His death is being investigated as a homicide by San Francisco police who are checking into possible leads in determining a suspect.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM WASHINGTON D.C.:

Smithsonian Adds Gay Rights History To Museum Collection

CBS News reports that hundreds of photographs, papers and historical objects documenting the history of GLBT people are being added to the Smithsonian Institution's collection Tuesday, including items from the popular TV show *Will and Grace*.

The collection, which features items from such diverse areas as sports, political activism and cultural history, is meant to show the impact that GLBT people have had on the American cultural landscape over the decades, often without people even realizing that important figures were even gay or lesbian.

In the case of *Will and Grace*, exhibit curator Dwight Blocker Bowers says that the writers used comedy to bring gay culture to a mainstream audience without them feeling threatened, and broke ground in much the same way that *All In The Family* did in regards to issues of bigotry and tolerance.

BIGGAYNEWS FROM IOWA:

Mom Calls To Lift Ban On Tissue Donations From Gay Men

The *Des Moines Register* reports that Sheryl Moore wants the law changed so gay men can donate their eyes along with other organs at death.

Moore's son, A.J. Betts, committed suicide in July of 2013, partially due to bullying for being gay, but when Moore decided to donate his organs, she found that certain organs were barred from being donated if they came from gay men.

After discovering that so-called "non lifesaving" organs such as bone, skin, heart valves and eyes were not allowed to be donated due to FDA regulations surrounding donations from men who have sex with men, she has made it her mission to get the laws changed. ■



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RIDE REVIEW | BY RANDY STERN | PHOTOS BY RANDY STERN

Toyota Highlander



Cue *The Muppets*!

Rather, let's not cue *The Muppets* just yet. The marketing tie-in between Disney, Jim Henson's Muppets, Terry Crews, and Toyota may have helped bring the new 2014 Highlander into our consciousness. It is always fun to plug something with Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, Fozzy Bear, Gonzo, Dr. Teeth and his band...and so forth...along with a movie to promote.

That is the problem in working with these vehicles. You will always be reminded of the marketing campaign and its characters rather than the vehicle, itself.

So far, that has not been the problem with this Highlander. Maybe we have forgotten about *The Muppets*/Terry Crews spots or the movie the spots helped promote. In a sense, it was probably time to focus on what the new Highlander can do.

In all due respect to Disney, Jim Henson's family, and all of their fans, let us talk about the 2014 Toyota Highlander...*OK*?

The new Highlander is big. Even though it is as long as a mid-sized sedan, there is an illusion of size that the Highlander exudes. However, a lot of the specs have not changed that much from its predecessor. Perhaps it is the bold new front end that is doing it? Maybe it is the large doors and big rear quarter glass?

Nonetheless, the Highlander has a lot to offer on the outside. You can open up the

rear glass to access the rear cargo area, as well as use the power-operated liftgate. Both are great conveniences for parents or others with limited time on their hands. The XLE model we tested had 18-inch alloy wheels with good-sized sidewalls from its Michelin Latitude tires.

The illusion of size is also comforting once you step inside the Highlander. Four big doors open up to rows of massive space. Front seat occupants get big seats with loads of room to adjust behind the wheel. The XLE model adds power adjustments for lumbar support. Rear seat occupants get adjustments for legroom and recline, along with cupholders in the armrest. The third row is easily accessible and would benefit from the second row moved toward the front with extra legroom. Otherwise, it is best for children, with anchors for child seats, when needed.

Cargo is flexible depending on how many rows of seats you have up. With three rows up, there is only 13.8 cubic feet of cargo space, which is well-proportioned. However, if you fold the third row down, there is 42.3 cubic feet of cargo space, which looks like it would swallow a week's vacation for four people rather easily. The cargo floor does go flat with all rows down with easy access through the liftgate or the rear glass.

The driver gets a huge instrument panel. Instrumentation is big with readable dials and a good TFT screen in the middle for trip and vehicle readouts. It is also cleaner with most switches and controls clustered logically within the cabin. Some buttons are actually hidden underneath the center stack on the console, but others should be familiar to Toyota owners. Perhaps the best feature is a shelf that runs from underneath the Entune screen toward the passenger side. You could put your smartphone and other goodies within reach on shelf.

Toyota's Entune infotainment system is driven by a large eight-inch touch screen in the middle of the dashboard. The screens are clear to understand and offer plenty of options for connecting through Bluetooth or a USB cable. You also get SiriusXM and HD Radio for your listening options through six strategically positioned speakers and a very good navigation system on board. This tester had a rear seat Blu-ray player with a single drop-down screen and a pair of wireless headphones when you have children to entertain along the way.

The corporate 3.5-liter V6 is the best choice for powering the Highlander. With 270 horsepower on tap, there is plenty of punch to get the Highlander going on the highway or across town. It is well suited to run 4,310 pounds of mid-sized crossover anywhere you point it. A smooth-shifting six-speed automatic sends power down to all four wheels. In the XLE model, you can tow up to 5,000 pounds.

In truth, the Highlander is a big ol' softy. It rides smooth and absorbs the bumps and cracks on the road. You do get some roll and lean in the corners, but not enough to make things uncomfortable for everyone. The Highlander's ride is also on the quiet side and the all-wheel drive senses loss of traction rather quickly and smoothly.

Steering is rather easy, made possible by an electric system that steers rather decently. The turning radius is fine and the feel is soft and light. Brakes are decent with good stopping power. Pedal action is good for normal and panic stops.

Toyota claims the V6 Highlander will average 20MPG. V&R achieved an average of 20.5, which is a bit better than average.

The Highlander lineup starts with a four-cylinder powered, front-drive LE model with a sticker price of $30,470. Our XLE V6 all-wheel drive tester came out to $40,170. If you want a Highlander with the works, a fully loaded Hybrid model—the V6 plus Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive—in the Limited Platinum Package will set you back $51,045.

This Muppet-free Highlander is quite a good choice in a highly competitive segment. It ticks all of boxes: it rides well, is comfortable, and is right on the money.

There are plenty of players in this segment. Some have tighter third rows or lack ease of access to the rear. Some have huge passenger spaces or huge cargo holds. When finding the right balance, maybe a Muppet would be your best judge of whether the Toyota Highlander is the right mid-sized, three-row crossover to buy.

Now, you can cue *The Muppets*. Yes, you can play "The Rainbow Connection" on the Entune audio system. ■







DATELAND | BY JENNIFER PARELLO

All Wet

I have spent most of this summer in water. I've been training for an open-water swim from the tip of Cape Cod to a victory celebration at a gay bar on the shores of Provincetown, Massachusetts. The swim is an annual fundraiser for the town.

It's called Swim for Life. Since my parents both died within the last two years, I decided to swim it in memory of them. My dad loved to swim, and my mom loved a good party. This event encompasses both. As soon as you finish the swim, you crawl directly up the rocky beach to The Boat Slip bar, the site of so many of my youthful vacation follies.

I've been going to P-Town every summer for the past 24 years—that's just a whisper shy of half my life. When my friends and I started travelling to P-town, there were only a few places in the country where it was acceptable to be openly gay. These places (P-Town, Key West, San Francisco) were all bunched at the far edges of U.S. boundaries. The straights were basically trying to push us off the continent. Every place in the middle was kind of scary.

Now gays can get married in Iowa. Iowa!

While this is great for the country, it's had a weird effect on my beloved P-Town. It's not so gay any more because the gays can now vacation wherever they want without fear of being thrown into the slammer and poked with sticks.

Since my first visit to P-Town, I've stayed at the same house owned by two older lesbians. I was so young when I first booked the place, I had to sign a document vowing that my friends and I wouldn't have wild parties or bring home "guests." Now they get cranky if we play charades too loud at night.

These women, who have become like family to me, were ardent womyn with a very hard "y." They had a firm policy to rent rooms only to females by birth. For years—before I broke down their hardcore feminist defenses with my raw, animal charm—they kept their distance, and considered my suburban sensibilities and penchant for skirts and mascara as a sign that I might be bisexual. But a couple years ago, they admitted that they had to cave to economic pressures. "Not enough lesbians come here anymore. They all want to go to Dollywood and Branson, now that gays are allowed there," one of the owners told me with a huff. "So, we have to let in the straights."

While this has saddened many longtime residents and has dulled the freaky, party atmosphere of this longtime artist community, I'll never give up on the place. It's been my happy place for half my life—my refuge from every imaginable trouble. I love the place so much that I made my friends promise that, when I die, they'll scatter my ashes in P-Town harbor, the very waters that will host the Swim for Life.

"Don't you think it's weird that you'll be swimming in your future grave?" my girlfriend asked.

"Well, up until you said that, the only thing I was freaked out about were the sharks," I said. Because of global warming, great white sharks have been swimming into colder waters and have been spotted in Cape Cod. Sharks and straights have taken over P-Town. It's ridiculous.

But on race day, I'll put thoughts of these minor irritants aside. Instead, as I plow through the water, I'll remember all of the incredibly gay stuff I've done in P-Town over the years and I'll know that no matter how many straights or sharks muscle their way in, it will always be *our* town. ■

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You may only request an application by calling this telephone number anytime during these designated dates, between 8:00am on September 23rd through September 25th, 2014 at 4:30pm.

Only one person per household may apply.

All applications must be completed and returned to the Washington County HRA no later than 4:30pm, Wednesday, October 15, 2014. All returned applications will be entered into a lottery to determine placement on the list.

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8	$84,350

If you have any further questions you can contact the Washington County HRA at (651) 458-0936.

The Washington County HRA is subject to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities. Information regarding the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act is available at the HRA office. Auxiliary aids for disabled persons are available upon request at least 72 hours in advance of an event by calling 651-458-0936. For the hearing impaired only: Call the MN Relay Service 1-800-627-3529.

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THROUGH THESE EYES | BY JUSTIN JONES

Clark Kent and the Awkward Girl

Corner of Hennepin and 13th, across from the Subway I visit for $5 meatball subs, white bread, hold the cheese.

I'm at Café Espresso Royale. It's a quaint and surprising place; quaint for comfy couches, surprising for patron diversity. Here I've seen effeminate boys with glossy red lips wait for coffee beside homeless people who've collected enough money for a drink.

Business is slow this afternoon. I share the café with a handsome man reading from a personal finance book, *Super-Smart Investments* or *The Super Investor* or something "super," and a girl his age—24, 25—chewing on her hoodie's pull strings and reading from a textbook. They sit one table apart and he glances over at her occasionally. I can't tell if she's noticed or not. And then—

"I was just reading that book," he says. His delivery is painful; the joke is forced and way too loud. He swallows hard and moves from a reclining position to a shaky one leaning across the table. He's so nervous that I'm nervous.

I'm somewhat and selfishly sorry to see this. I sat at a bar-height table so I could look at him without him noticing and still be within earshot, ready for *him* to get *my* attention to strike up a conversation and one day marry me. Not *her*.

His accidentally harsh delivery startles the girl. She jumps and her wobbly table jerks, sending her coffee mug to its edge.

"Sorry," he says. "Didn't mean to scare you." His ears are red.

"No, no," she says and brushes hair out of her face. She's pretty in a sweet way: curly bed-head brunette hair, pale-skinned, and makeup-free. "No worries at all. What was that?"

"A joke. Sorry." He's wearing thick-rimmed eyeglasses and is clean-shaven. His jawline is ridiculously sharp; his body is worthy of Adonis.

"Oh," she says and fake laughs. "Yeah, I guess you wouldn't read a textbook on a whim."

The scene is terrifically awkward. She looks down at her textbook but isn't reading any more. *What to say…What to say…*

She clears her throat and finally, "Yeah, yours too. I read that, too." It's an embarrassing attempt at a comeback and comes far too late. The guy laughs, as do I, because she's so adorable.

"What *are* you reading?" he asks.

Her response is again delayed, as if she processes every word before reacting. She rushes to close her textbook and shows him the cover. A book on women in Africa.

"Ah, very nice." The guy sounds more confident now; the upper-hand is his—she's the nervous one. He holds up his book for her to see and says, "Me, I'm trying to make my money the *super* way."

They strike up a conversation and I can't help but eavesdrop. They talk about Yoplait Light, ice fishing, and British accents. Their talk is flirtatious and witty, until—

A tall man in a plaid button-down walks into the café and interrupts the mood. The girl suddenly looks like she's in trouble; she's quick to stand and greets him with a kiss. He shows no affection.

"Let's go," the man says. She hurries to pack up her things and—poof—she's gone. Not so much as a goodbye.

The Super Investor. His face. It's frozen. Paralyzed. Shocked. On the verge of heartbreak. His face tells me that he married the girl as quickly as I'd married him when I picked my bar-height seat.

He stares into the floor without blinking, into what romantics face when we're presented with the unrequited: an irrational absence, a gap once filled by something we never had.

The Super Investor packs his things and leaves the Café Espresso Royale.

An hour passes and I get "serious" about writing. Other patrons trickle in and out: a family here, a cyclist there, students from a neighboring community college, business people, and artistic-looking retirees.

I'm ready to leave when another disheveled girl runs in. She snaps up a table, unpacks a computer from a Gophers tote, and begins typing frantically, almost angrily. Like the girl before her, she has messy hair and is makeup-free. I stay so I can study her from my perch. She's clearly a student, younger than the bags under her eyes suggest.

Soon after she sits, a man talking on his cell phone enters the café. He takes a table only one away from hers, but he doesn't seem to notice…

Funny what you'll find when you're looking for it.

The sub of the day is meatball. ■

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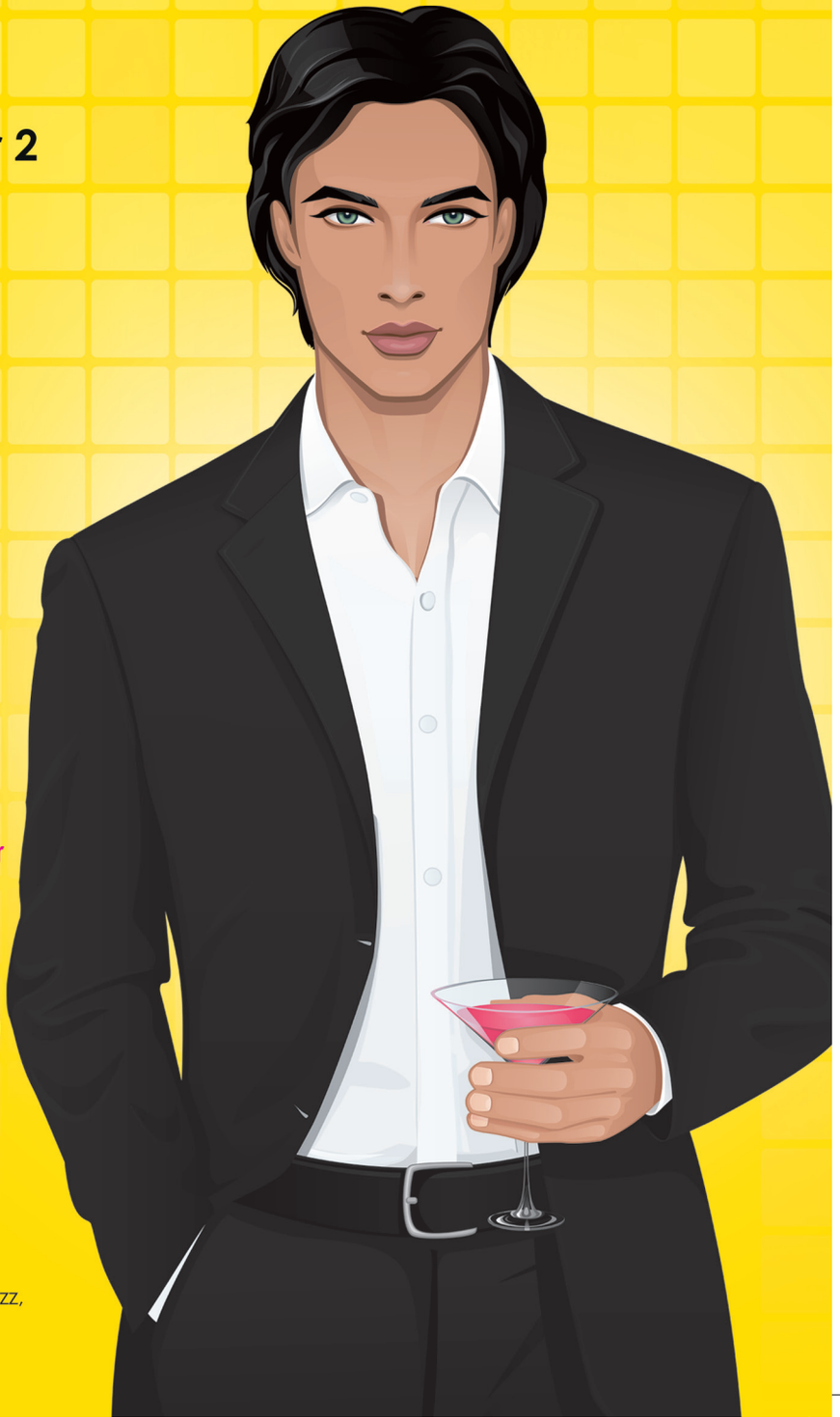
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